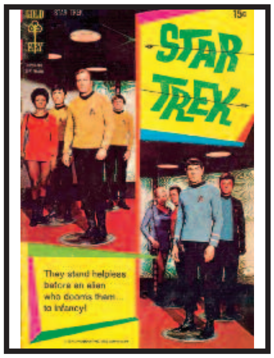
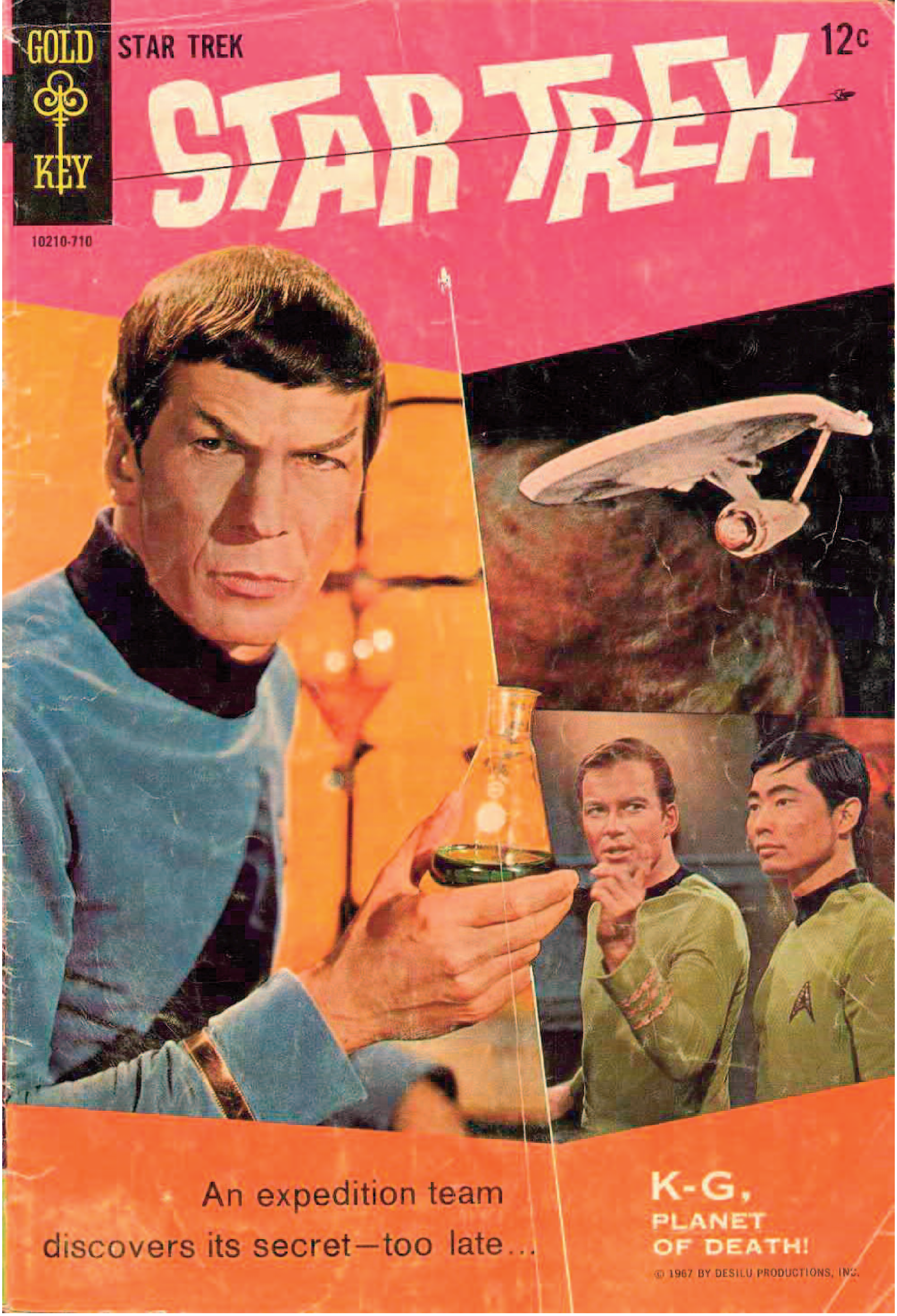
STAR TREK

VOL. 1

GOLD KEY COMIC BOOKS



ISSUES #1-10


GOLD KEY
STAR TREK
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STAR TREK
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An expedition team discovers its secret—too late...
K-G, PLANET OF DEATH!
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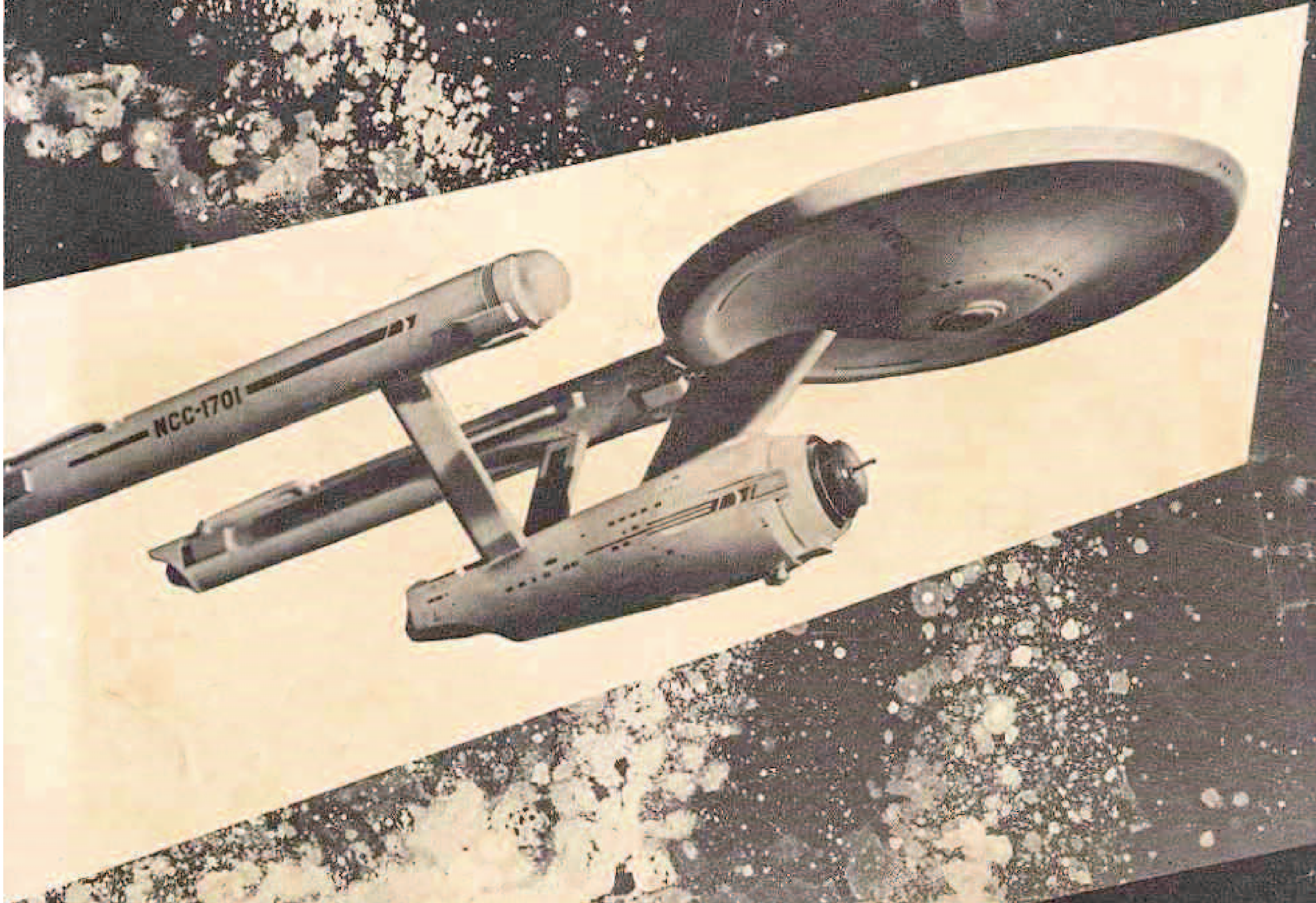

This is the Enterprise
a ship of the Star Fleet.
Its five-year mission in space:
to probe the far reaches of the
galaxy, to search the unknown and
unlock its mysteries, to boldly go
where no man has ever gone before!

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CAPTAIN'S LOG, STAR DATE 18:09.2— ENTERPRISE CARRYING OUT EXPLORATION MISSION THROUGH GALAXY ALPHA. SO FAR WE'VE SEEN NO INDICATION OF LIFE ANYWHERE IN THE GALAXY...
CAPT. KIRK, SIR--I'VE PICKED UP ANOTHER CELESTIAL BODY ON THE SPACESCOPE! AND THIS ONE APPEARS FERTILE!
GIVE ME A CLOSEUP OF IT ON THE TV SCANNER!
LOOK AT HER, CAPTAIN... KELLY GREEN ... STEEPED IN VEGETATION!
YES...MUCH MORE SO THAN OUR OWN EARTH! IF THERE'S LIFE IN THIS GALAXY, WE'LL FIND IT THERE...
ATTENTION CREW! WE'RE GOING TO DISPATCH AN EXPLORATION PARTY! MAKE NECESSARY PREPARATIONS!
AS THE ENTERPRISE CLOSES ON THE PLANET, SHE PASSES THROUGH AN EERIE SPACE FOG...
...A MIST WITHIN WHICH FLOAT A HANDFUL OF STRANGE PLANT SPORES THAT FASTEN ONTO THE HULL OF THE SHIP...
THE ONE-CELLED REPRODUCTIVE BODIES ARE SO MINUTE, YET SO POWERFUL, THAT THEY SEEP THROUGH THE VERY SUPERSTRUCTURE...
LET'S SEE WHAT THE CAPTAIN ORDERED FOR THE EXPLORATION TEAM, A THREE-DAY SUPPLY OF FOOD CONCENTRATE... WATER CAPSULES...

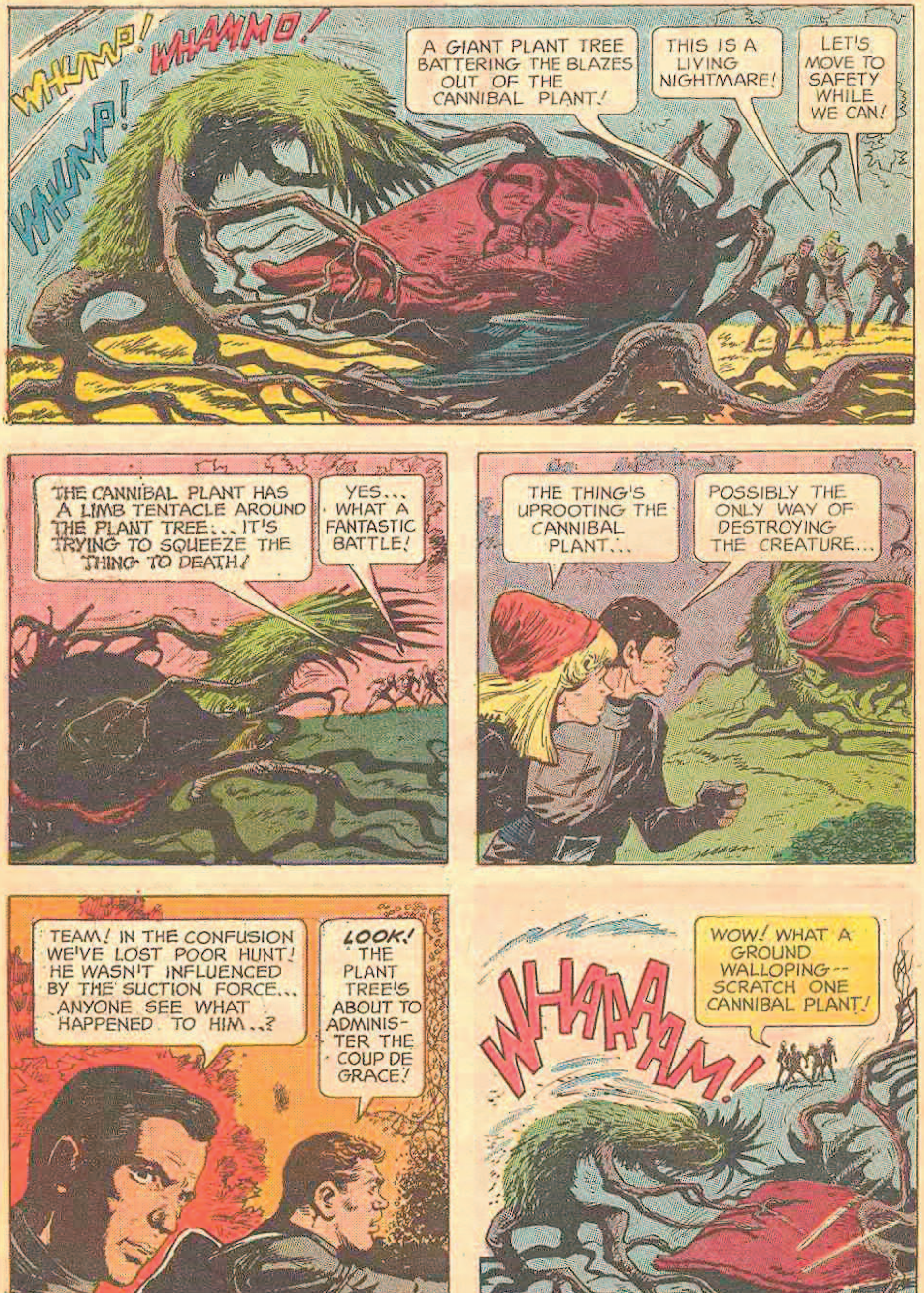
SUDDENLY...
VERY STRANGE! LET US OBSERVE THEM, DR. McCOY...
LISTEN TO THAT! WHAT IN THE WILD HEAVENS HAS GOTTEN INTO THOSE GUINEA PIGS..?
SQUEEEK!
SQUEEK
SQUEEE!
THE TWO MEN TURN--THEIR EYES FALL ON A STARTLING SIGHT...
THEY'RE MAKING A FANTASTIC TRANS-FORMATION OF SOME KIND! IT'S AS IF--
AS IF THEY'RE TURNING INTO PLANTS! WE'VE GOT TO RECORD THIS ON FILM FOR FUTURE RESEARCH REFERENCE...
BUT BEFORE DR. McCOY CAN ACT, A MENACE NO MORTAL MAN HAS EVER KNOWN EXPLODES FROM THE CAGE AND...
T-THE ANIMALS...THEY'VE TRANS-FORMED INTO GIANT, HOSTILE TREES!
AND THEY ARE ON A RAMPAGE-- OUT TO DESTROY US BOTH! GUARDS! GUARDS!

W-WHAT IS IT..?
DON'T ASK QUESTIONS! THE THINGS ARE ABOUT TO DEVOUR THE DOCTOR AND MR. SPOCK! FIRE! FIRE!
THEY'VE HIT THE CENTRAL POLLEN AREAS OF THE PLANTS --IT SHOULD KILL THEM...
IT IS... I FEEL THE GRASP OF THE PLANT TEN-TACLE WEAKEN-ING ABOUT ME...
KA-ZAAAP!
ZAAAP!
YOU ARE TO BE COMMENDED, GUARDS --YOU... SAVED OUR LIVES!
HOW'D THAT THING GET IN HERE, ANYWAY, MR. SPOCK?
THAT IS SOMETHING THAT MUST BE LEARNED--WE MUST KNOW THE CAUSE TO FIND THE CURE-- THE PREVENTATIVE!
WE'D BETTER REPORT THIS TO THE CAPTAIN AT ONCE! NO TELLING WHEN OR WHERE THOSE PLANT CREATURES WILL CROP UP AGAIN!

AN EMERGENCY CONFERENCE IS HELD! AND SOON AFTER...
SURELY, YOU MEN OF SCIENCE MUST HAVE SOME IDEA--A LEAD TO *HOW* SUCH A FREAK OCCURRENCE LIKE THIS COULD HAPPEN...
I HAVE ONE THOUGHT--WEEKS AGO WE SPACE-TESTED BOTH THE GUINEA PIGS *OUTSIDE* THE SHIP...
IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE, IN THIS UNKNOWN GALAXY, THAT THEY PICKED UP *ALIEN SPORES*...
AND THESE SPORES, AFTER A PERIOD OF TIME, REACTED ON THE ANIMALS PHYSICALLY AND BROUGHT ABOUT THE TRANSFORMATION! AN EXCELLENT THEORY, MR. SPOCK!
I'LL RUN A SERIES OF TESTS ON THE PLANT REMAINS WHILE YOU GENTLEMEN ARE ON THE EXPLORATION MISSION!
WHICH REMINDS ME--IT'S NEARLY "D" HOUR!* WE'D BETTER GET A MOVE ON, DOCTOR!
*"D" HOUR--DEPARTURE TIME.

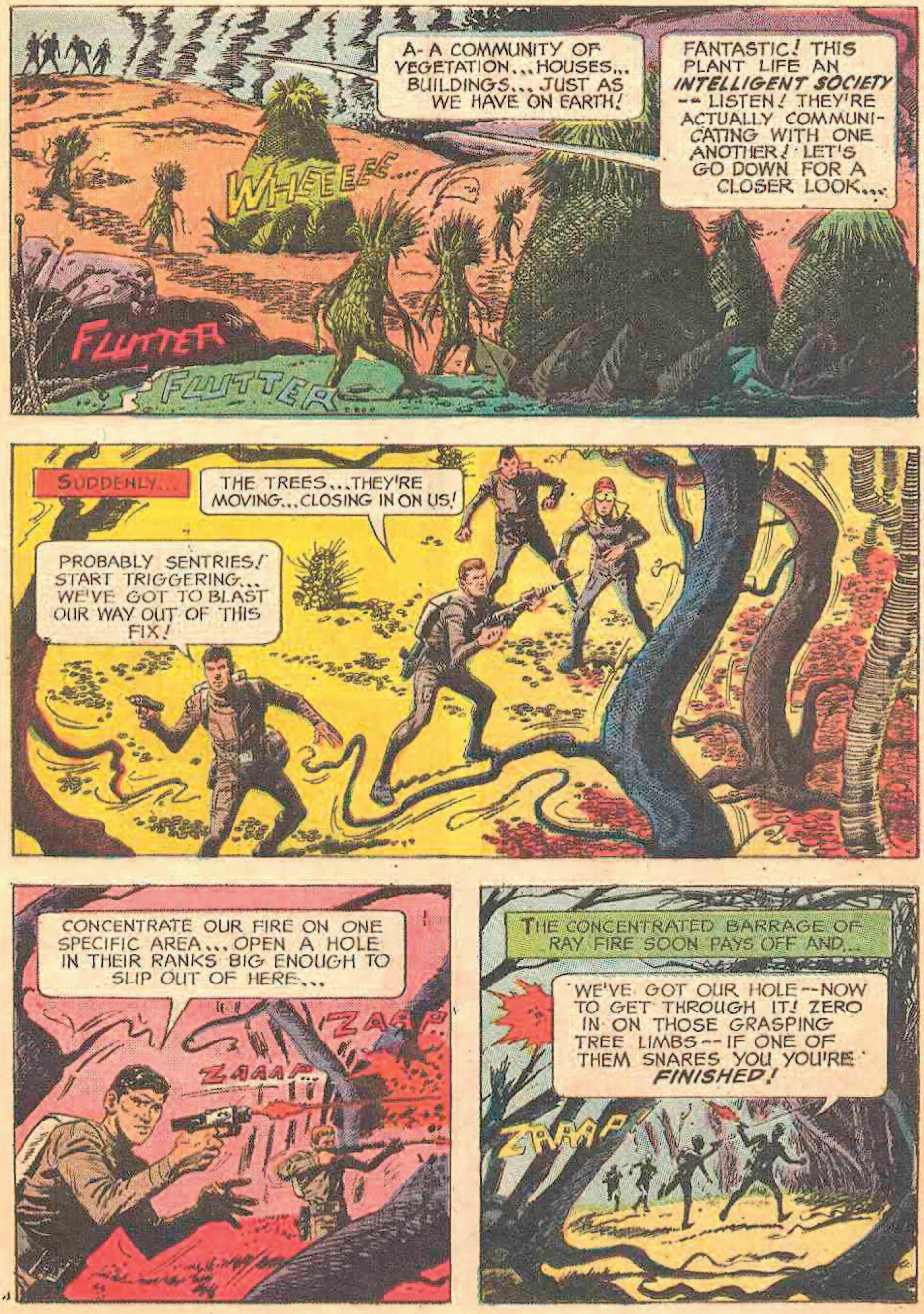
THE CAPTAIN AND DR. McCOY JOIN THE EXPLORATION TEAM IN THE TELEPORTATION CHAMBER! BEAMS FROM ABOVE SUDDENLY ILLUMINATE THEIR BODIES AND THEN...
HERE WE GO--- WE'LL MAKE AN HOURLY TV-RADIO REPORT TO THE HOVERING SHIP, MR. SPOCK!
WE WILL ANXIOUSLY BE AWAITING YOUR WORD, CAPTAIN! MAY LUCK BE WITH YOU...
AN INSTANT LATER, THE FIVE ARE TELEPORTED THROUGH SPACE TO RE-APPEAR ON THE CELESTIAL BODY THEY NOW REFER TO OFFICIALLY AS PLANET K-G*...
JUST LOOK AT THE COLORFUL VEGETATION-- ISN'T IT MAGNIFICENT!
YES, JANICE--ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE! WELL, LET'S FAN OUT AND RECONNOITER THE AREA FOR POSSIBLE INTELLIGENT LIFE HERE...
*PLANET K-G-- PLANET KELLY GREEN.
THE TEAM MOVES ACROSS THE CLEARING! AS THEY DO SO, CREWMAN HUNT PASSES THROUGH A PATCH OF MIST...
AND AS THE GROUP REACHES THE THICK, MULTICOLORED FOLIAGE...
ALL RIGHT--NOW WE'LL REGROUP AND... HUNT! WHAT IN HEAVEN HAS HAPPENED TO YOU?

I-I DON'T KNOW ...FEEL STRANGE...
EEEEK! HE'S CHANGING...INTO A-A PLANT!
JUST LIKE THE GUINEA PIGS BACK ON THE SHIP! HUNT! CAN YOU UNDERSTAND ME?
BUT THERE IS NO TIME FOR A REPLY-- FOR AT THAT MOMENT...
HEY! SOMETHING'S DRAWING US BACK... BUT WHAT?
DON'T KNOW, DEAN...BUT THE FORCE IS TOO STRONG TO RESIST...
THEN, TERROR SHAKES THE FOURSOME AS...
HOWLING COMETS! THIS SUCTION FORCE IS BEING CREATED BY A GIANT CANNIBAL PLANT! AND IT DREW THE WEAPONS RIGHT OUT OF OUR HANDS!
TRY...TRY TO BREAK FREE...OR THE THING WILL DEVOUR US IN SECONDS!
IT'S NO USE...THE MONSTER'S GOT US ALL...
WHAT A WAY TO DIE!
SUDDENLY...
THE SUCTION FORCE...IT'S SUDDENLY STOPPED! BUT WHY?
THERE'S YOUR ANSWER! LOOK!


WHUMP! WHAMMO!
WHUMP!
A GIANT PLANT TREE BATTERING THE BLAZES OUT OF THE CANNIBAL PLANT!
THIS IS A LIVING NIGHTMARE!
LET'S MOVE TO SAFETY WHILE WE CAN!
THE CANNIBAL PLANT HAS A LIMB TENTACLE AROUND THE PLANT TREE... IT'S TRYING TO SQUEEZE THE THING TO DEATH!
YES... WHAT A FANTASTIC BATTLE!
THE THING'S UPROOTING THE CANNIBAL PLANT...
POSSIBLY THE ONLY WAY OF DESTROYING THE CREATURE...
TEAM! IN THE CONFUSION WE'VE LOST POOR HUNT! HE WASN'T INFLUENCED BY THE SUCTION FORCE... ANYONE SEE WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM...?
LOOK! THE PLANT TREE'S ABOUT TO ADMINISTER THE COUP DE GRACE!
WHAAAAM!
WOW! WHAT A GROUND WALLOPING-- SCRATCH ONE CANNIBAL PLANT!

THE PLANT TREE... ...IT'S WAVERING...
THE BATTLE MUST HAVE BEEN TOO MUCH FOR IT... IT EXHAUSTED ITSELF...
TIM-BER!
ALL RIGHT, TEAM-- LET'S GET BACK THERE AND START SEARCHING THE AREA FOR HUNT! HE'S GOT TO BE NEARBY...
CRAAAASH
I'LL CHECK OUT THAT SIDE OF THE CLEARING...
WAIT! THAT... WON'T BE NECESSARY, DEAN! I'VE... I'VE FOUND HUNT!
WHY...ISN'T THAT...
YES, HUNT'S IDENTIFICATION BRACELET! THE PLANT TREE WAS HIM-- FULLY TRANSFORMED!
O-OH! HOW TERRIBLE...
EVEN THOUGH POOR HUNT WAS NO LONGER HUMAN, HE RETAINED ENOUGH INTELLIGENCE TO REALIZE OUR LIVES WERE IN DANGER...
THAT'S WHY HE ATTACKED THE CANNIBAL PLANT--TO SAVE US! AND HE DIED DOING IT!

PERHAPS IT'S FOR THE BEST. THAT HE SHOULD HAVE DIED WHILE THERE WAS STILL SOMETHING OF HUNT LEFT IN HIM!
GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT, DOC! WELL, WE'VE GOT A DUTY TO PERFORM...
SHORTLY, A GRIM FOURSOME STANDS OVER A SHALLOW GRAVE WHERE...
SO LONG, HUNT... AND WE ALL THANK YOU FOR OUR LIVES!
SOB! SOB!
SOON AFTER, WHEN THE GRIM WORD IS RADIO-TV'D TO THE USS ENTERPRISE...
A PITY--HUNT WAS A GREAT SPACEMAN...WE'LL MISS HIM! GIVE ME YOUR DEPARTURE TIME, CAPTAIN--AND I WILL HAVE THE MATERIALIZATION BEAMS ACTIVATED!
NO... WE'RE NOT RETURNING TO THE SHIP IMMEDIATELY, MR. SPOCK!
YOU CANNOT BE SERIOUS! IT IS NOW QUITE OBVIOUS THAT PLANET K-G IS IN SOME WAY RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS TRANSFORMATION PHENOMENON! YOU ARE ALL IN DANGER THERE...
PERHAPS WE CAN FIND THE KEY TO THIS FREAK OCCURRENCE HERE! MEANWHILE, CONTINUE TO RUN YOUR ANALYSIS ON THOSE TREE SPECIMENS!
VERY WELL... YOU ARE THE CAPTAIN!
RECOVERING THEIR WEAPONS, THE FOURSOME MOVES THROUGH THE OMINOUS FOLIAGE WITHOUT INCIDENT! THEN...
LOOK AT THAT!
INCREDIBLE!
I-I CAN SCARCELY BELIEVE MY EYES!


A- A COMMUNITY OF VEGETATION... HOUSES... BUILDINGS... JUST AS WE HAVE ON EARTH!
FANTASTIC! THIS PLANT LIFE AN INTELLIGENT SOCIETY -- LISTEN! THEY'RE ACTUALLY COMMUNICATING WITH ONE ANOTHER! LET'S GO DOWN FOR A CLOSER LOOK...
WHEEEEE...
FLUTTER
FLUTTER
SUDDENLY...
THE TREES...THEY'RE MOVING...CLOSING IN ON US!
PROBABLY SENTRIES! START TRIGGERING... WE'VE GOT TO BLAST OUR WAY OUT OF THIS FIX!
CONCENTRATE OUR FIRE ON ONE SPECIFIC AREA... OPEN A HOLE IN THEIR RANKS BIG ENOUGH TO SLIP OUT OF HERE...
ZAAP
ZAAAP...
THE CONCENTRATED BARRAGE OF RAY FIRE SOON PAYS OFF AND...
WE'VE GOT OUR HOLE--NOW TO GET THROUGH IT! ZERO IN ON THOSE GRASPING TREE LIMBS--IF ONE OF THEM SNARES YOU YOU'RE FINISHED!
ZAAAP

BREAKING OUT OF THE TREE TRAP, ANOTHER DANGER IS SOON REALIZED...
HEY--HAVE A LOOK-SEE BEHIND US! SOME CRAZY WEEDS ARE AFTER US!
HMM-M...IT'S MY HUNCH THEY'RE TRAILING US LIKE *BLOODHOUNDS*... PROBABLY RELAYING OUR LOCATION BACK TO THEIR HEADQUARTERS...
WHIPRRRP!
WRRRR!
WE'LL NEVER GET OUT OF HERE WITH THEM ON OUR TAILS—BLAST THEM TO PIECES!
YOU HIT EVERYONE IN SIGHT, CAPTAIN--GOOD SHOOTING!
ZAAAP!
ZAAAP!.....
ZAAAP
I-I'M EXHAUSTED...
STEADY, HONEY--I KNOW IT'S BEEN ROUGH...
THINK I SEE A CAVERN UP AHEAD! PERHAPS WE CAN CATCH A BREATH OR TWO IN THERE...
TENSE MINUTES LATER, WITHIN A SMALL MOUNTAIN CAVERN...
LET'S FACE IT, CAPTAIN--WE'RE TOO LITTLE IN NUMBER AND FIRE POWER TO FIGHT THIS... THIS INCREDIBLE NATION OF VEGETATION! WE MUST RETURN TO THE ENTERPRISE!
I READ YOU, DOCTOR--AND YOU'RE RIGHT!
AFTER WE CATCH OUR BREATH WE'LL GO OUTSIDE AND I'LL CONTACT MR. SPOCK AND HAVE HIM MATERIALIZE US BACK TO THE SHIP!
AND I THOUGHT THIS PLANET WAS SO BEAUTIFUL--IT'S THE UGLIEST PLACE I'VE EVER BEEN...

SUDDENLY, THE CRAWLING, VINE THING REARS LIKE A COBRA BEHIND THE FOURSOME...
...AND STRIKES...
OH-H!
G-GREAT HANNAH!
THE BESTIAL PLANT WHIPLASHES BACK WITH ITS PREY...
G-GRAB HER ...QUICK!
ROOOOOOO!
WIIIIISH!
THEN...
C-CAN'T HANG ON... IT'S STRONG AS A... A STEEL CABLE!
A-AND LASHING ... LIKE A BULL WHIP...
SWOOOOOSH
WOOOSH!
EEEEEEE!

DOCTOR... CAPTAIN!... ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
Y-YES! WHERE'S IT GOING? WHAT'S THAT LOATHESOME THING DOING WITH JANICE?
I-IT WAS TOO QUICK FOR ME! THE THING'S RECOIL-ING BACK INTO THE THICK FOLIAGE WITH HER!
LET'S GET AFTER IT FAST! GRAB OUR WEAPONS IN THE CAVE!
THERE IT IS-- DEAD AHEAD... MOV-ING LIKE AN EARTH SNAKE!
BUT MOMENTS LATER...
IT'S GONE... VANISHED! THIS FOLIAGE IS TOO THICK TO SEE THROUGH!
THAT DEAD TREE, DEAN... CLIMB IT AND SEE IF YOU CAN PEER OVER THIS GREEN NIGHTMARE!
DEAN ASCENDS THE DEAD TREE... AND SUDDENLY, HIS FACE GOES WHITE WITH SHOCK...
OH, NO... NO! I-IT'S TERRIBLE! J-JANICE... SHE'S BEING PUT INTO A... A... CATTLE PEN!
END PART ONE

STAR TREK
THE PLANET OF NO RETURN PART II

BUT THEN...
G-GREAT GALLOPING GALAXIES! N-NEW THORNS... THE STEMS ARE SHOOTING OUT FRESH THORNS!
ZING
ZIP
POP
AGAIN, THE TRIO TRIGGERS THEIR WEAPONS... AND...
I-IT'S NO USE! SOME INCREDIBLE PLANT CHEMISTRY IS REGENERATING NEW GROWTHS AS FAST AS THE FORMER ONES DIE!
A...PROTECTIVE DEVICE...TO GUARD THE ANIMAL ENCLOSURE...
MAYBE THERE'S A BREAK IN THE THORN FENCE... AN ENTRANCE OF SOME KIND THAT WE CAN GET THROUGH!
SUDDENLY...
H-HOLD UP!
THE BEAST CREATURES... ON GRAZING GROUNDS...LIKE CATTLE!
AND THOSE ROLLING TUMBLEWEED-TYPE PLANTS... WH-WHY, THEY'RE ACTING AS SHEEP DOGS!

SISSSS
SISSSSS
LOOK AT THAT! THE ROLLING PLANTS ARE MAKING SOUNDS... HERDING THE BEASTS LIKE COW-HANDS WITH CATTLE!
YES... BUT WHERE ARE THEY HERDING THEM? AND WHY?
THEN...
WH-WHY, IT LOOKS LIKE A FARMLAND DOWN THERE... ROWS OF SYSTEMATICALLY-GROWING VEGETABLE-TYPE PLANTS!
OF COURSE! THAT COULD BE THE ONLY ANSWER TO A PLANT CIVILIZATION...
THE LOWER PLANT LIFE ON THEIR SOCIAL SCALE ARE USED AS FODDER... FOOD FOR THE BEAST CREATURES! VEGETABLE FOOD!
S-SUFFERING SOLAR SHOWERS! THE VEGETABLES ARE ALIVE-- TH-THEY'RE MAKING SOUNDS ALSO!
MMM....
MMMNNNNNN.......

YES, ALIVE... BUT IF THEIR CATTLE BEASTS FEED ON THE LOWLY VEGETABLES... THAT MUST MEAN THE SUPERIOR PLANTS FEED ON THE ANIMALS! A-AND JANICE IS...
WITH THEM! THAT ROCK PINNACLE ...IT WILL GIVE US A VIEW INTO THE CATTLE PEN!
I'VE GOT A GOOD SHOT INSIDE THE ENCLOSURE FROM HERE... LET'S SEE IF I CAN SPOT JANICE!
KIRK'S POWERFUL STELLAR BINOCULARS PIERCE THE CATTLE PEN...
I SEE HER... SHE'S HUDDLED AGAINST THE THORN BARRIER... BESIDE SOME SORT OF CHUTE AFFAIR... BUT, SO FAR, SHE'S SAFE!
THEN...
GR-GREAT GOSH! THAT THING'S A CATTLE RUN... I-I THINK THE BEASTS ARE BEING LED OUT... FOR SLAUGHTER!

A GROUP OF THEM ARE BEING LED OUT NOW! I-I'LL SEE WHAT HAPPENS TO THEM!
AND AS CAPTAIN KIRK OBSERVES FROM AFAR THROUGH THE BINOCULARS...
WOOO...
ZIIII...ZIIIII
SLOWLY, THE GIANT TREES LOWER THEIR MASSIVE FOLIAGE CLUMPS...
THEN...
WHILE ATOP THE ROCK PINNACLE...
I-IT IS A CATTLE SLAUGHTER RUN... THE BEASTS ARE BEING FED... TO GIANT TREES!
AND JANICE IS ONE OF THE "CATTLE" ...WE'VE GOT TO TRY ANYTHING TO SAVE HER!

NO, WAIT! IT WON'T WORK, DOCTOR! WE'LL JUST DESTROY OURSELVES ON THOSE THORN GUARDS AND SACRIFICE JANICE ALSO!
ONLY MR. SPOCK ON THE ENTERPRISE CAN HELP JANICE NOW!
A FEW SECONDS LATER ON THE ENTERPRISE...
YOU WANT A LASER BEAM DESTRUCT RAY PIN-POINTED FOR AREA OF TEN YARDS, BUT THAT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE, CAPTAIN KIRK!
IT'S GOT TO BE POSSIBLE, MR. SPOCK!
IF THE BEAM MISSES BY EVEN A FOOT IT CAN INCINERATE JANICE, AS WELL AS THE THORN GUARD FENCE! OUR BLAST GUNS AREN'T STRONG ENOUGH FOR THE JOB!
I SEE...
THEN IT IS A LIFE-AND-DEATH SHOT THAT MUST BE TAKEN! ALL RIGHT... SEND ME EXACT READINGS! IF YOU ARE A FRACTION OF AN INCH OFF WE WILL FAIL!
U.S.S. ENTERPRISE
NCC-1701

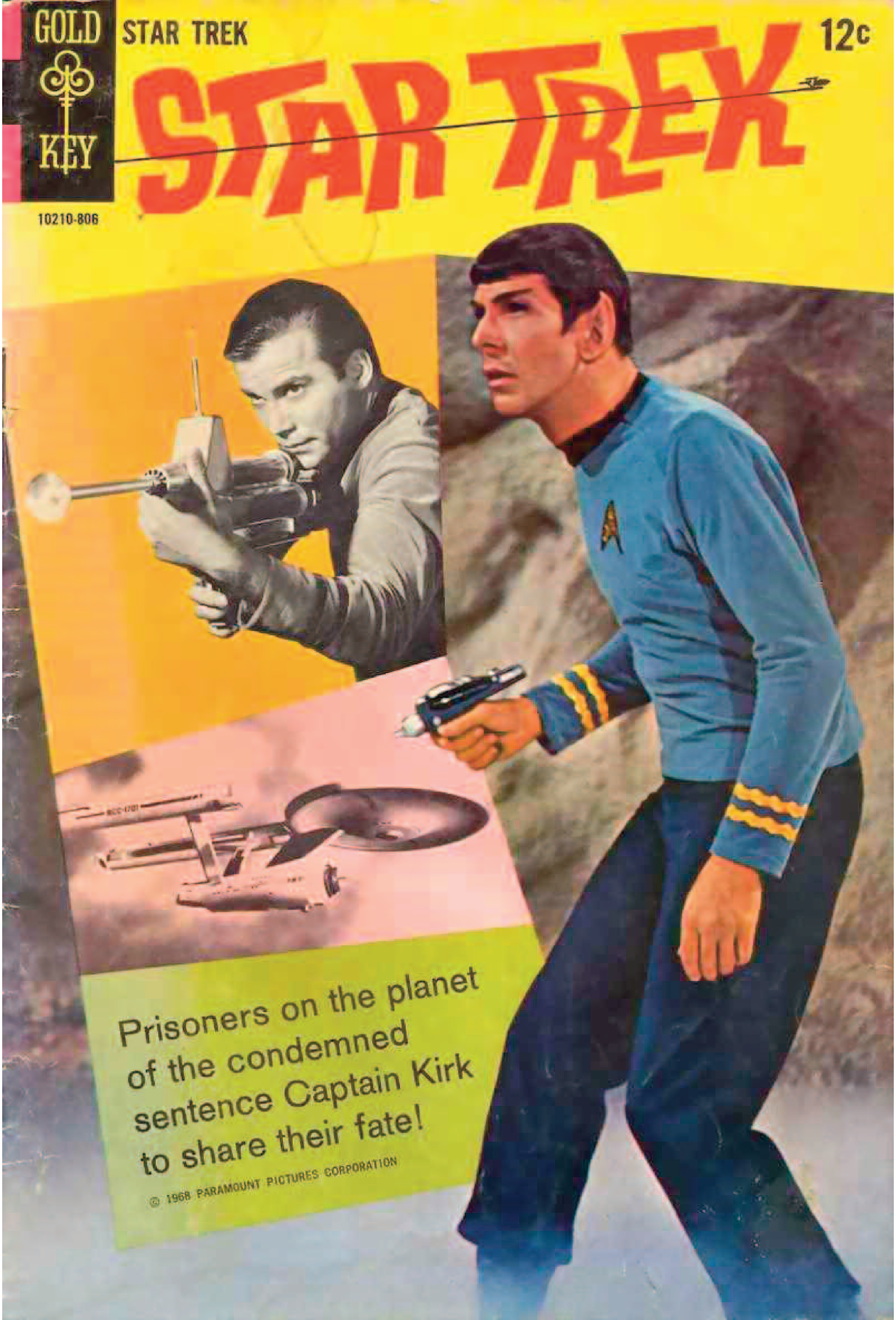
CELESTIAL LONGITUDE 2,118... LATITUDE, 145.9...
THORN GUARD FENCE PRECISELY TEN FEET...SIX AND ONE HALF INCHES DEEP...
FENCE TEN FEET...SIX...ONE-HALF INCHES! WE WILL BE AT THE POINT OF BLAST IN THREE MINUTES!
DESPERATELY, THE TRIO RACES TOWARD THE LASER BEAM TARGET...
BUT DON'T WAIT FOR US, MR. SPOCK...THEY MAY BE TAKING JANICE NOW!
I WILL NOT WAIT, CAPTAIN KIRK...
...BUT I WILL NEED PRECIOUS SECONDS TO COMPUTE THE ENTERPRISE'S PRECISE POSITION RELATIVE TO TARGET!
WHIRRR
CLICK!
CLICK!
AND MEANWHILE, WITHIN THE CATTLE ENCLOSURE...
TH-THEY THINK I'M ONE OF THEIR CATTLE BEASTS...GOT TO HOLD THEM OFF... THE MEN ARE TRYING TO HELP ME... TH-THEY MUST BE!
ZIIIII
ZIIII

PRECIOUS MINUTES LATER, AS THE TRIO REACHES "GROUND ZERO"..
(PUFF PUFF) TH-THERE IT IS... THE CHUTE EXIT! —SPOCK'S BLAST SHOULD BURN A HOLE FIVE YARDS LONG IN IT...
IF ALL GOES WELL...
...BUT IF THE "SHEEPDOG" VINES LEAD JANICE OUT BEFORE HE TRIGGERS IT... WE'RE SUNK! —TO STOP THEM HE'LL HAVE TO HIT JANICE ALSO!
THEN...
TABULATIONS COMPLETE! BLAST BEAM IN FIVE SECONDS... FIVE... FOUR...
...THREE...TWO...
BLAST!
PRAY, GUYS ...PRAY!

INSTANTLY, AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT, A BEAM OF SEARING, PENETRATING LIGHT STREAKS DOWN FROM SPACE! IN AN INFERNO OF ANGUISHED PLANT CRIES, THE THORN FENCE IS VAPORIZED... BUT...
ZIIIP!
PUFF!
ARRRROOO!
ZIIIIKES.....ROOOOO!
ON TARGET! B-BUT IS JANICE SAFE?
HURRY! THE OTHER CANNIBAL PLANTS ARE ALIVE... WE'VE GOT TO REACH HER FIRST!

SHE'S DAZED... BUT SHE ISN'T BURNED! JANICE!
LOOK OUT! THOSE TUMBLEWEED THINGS ARE COMING!
OH-H!
BLAST-RAY THEM OFF! I'LL GET HER OUTSIDE THE BARRIER!
RIGHT!
ZAP!
WOOO!
WOOOO!
ZAAAP!
BUT OUTSIDE THE ENCLOSURE, SAFETY STILL ELUDES THEM AS...
TH-THE GIANT TREES... SHOOTING OUT SPORE SPRAYS... THEY'RE TRYING TO POLLUTE US WITH THEM... LIKE THEY DID HUNT!
WE HAVE HER SAFE! MATERIALIZE US ABOARD AT ONCE, MR. SPOCK! GIANT TREES ARE TRYING TO GERMINATE US! HURRY! HURRY!

AS THE DOOM SPORES FALL, THE EXPLORING TEAM BEGINS TO FADE...
THEN...
OROOO OROOO!
AND ABOARD THE STAR SPACE-SHIP ENTERPRISE...
TH-THANK A THOUSAND STAR HEAVENS! THEY MADE IT!
OH, MR. SPOCK...LET'S GET AWAY FROM THIS DREADFUL PLANET AT ONCE, PLEASE!
YES! I SECOND THAT MOTION! (WHEW-W!)
NO!
IT CAN NOT BE DONE—YET! I HAVE CHARTED WHAT CAN HAPPEN IF THOSE GIANT TREES CONTINUE TO EMIT SPORES THROUGH THE UNIVERSE!


GOLD KEY
STAR TREK
12c
STAR TREK
10210-806
Prisoners on the planet of the condemned sentence Captain Kirk to share their fate!
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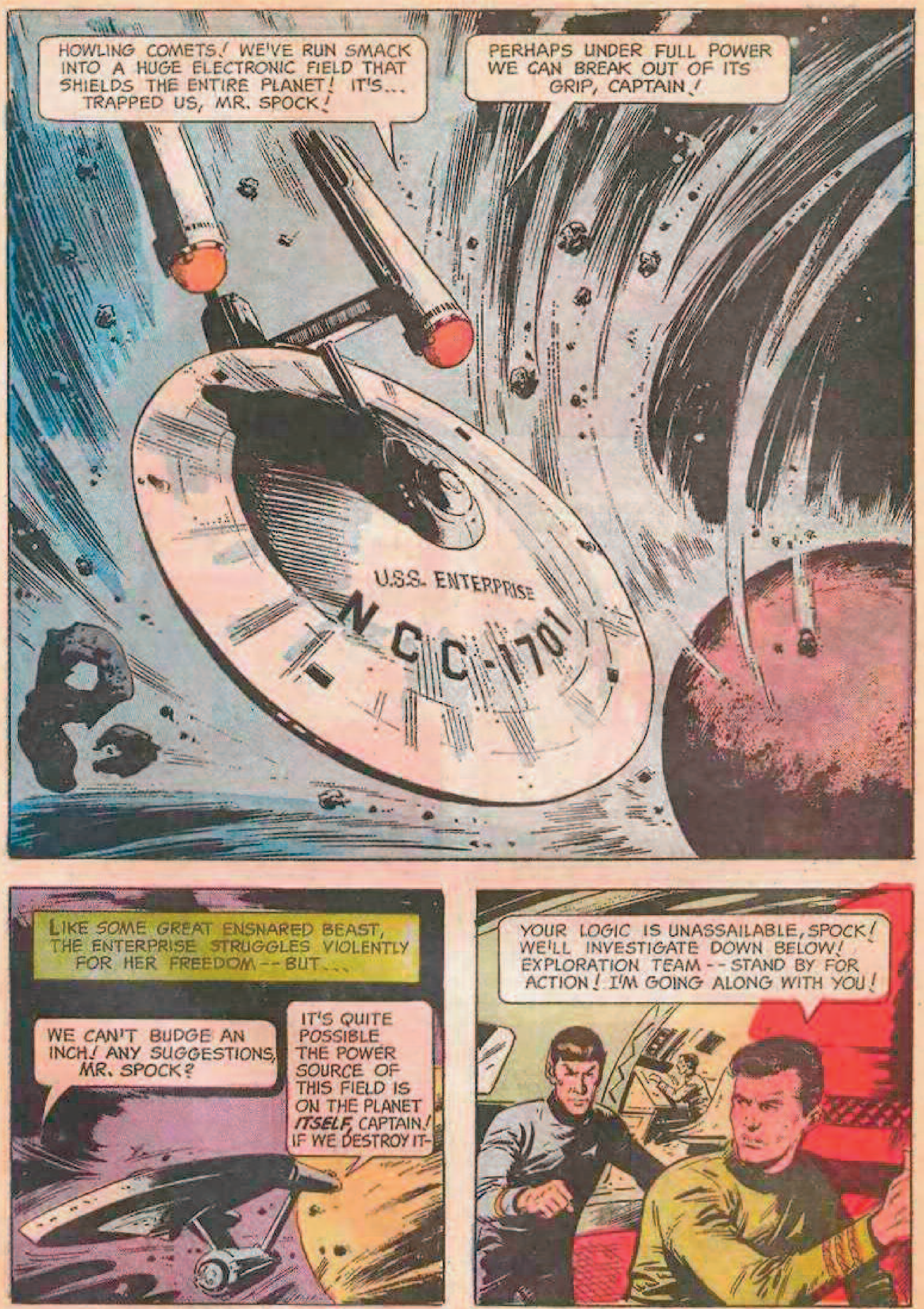
CAPTAIN'S LOG, STAR DATE 19:03.4-- ON THE OUTER FRINGE OF GALAXY NABU, CAME UPON A STRANGE BELT OF UNCHARTED ASTEROIDS--STRANGE FOR OBVIOUS REASONS...
GLOWING ASTEROIDS DOTTING THE ASTEROID BELT! NEVER SAW ANYTHING LIKE IT BEFORE, CAPTAIN!
YES, WELL WORTH LOOKING INTO, WOULDN'T YOU SAY, MR. SPOCK?
NCC-1701
ANY UNEXPLAINABLE PHENOMENOM DEMANDS INVESTIGATION, CAPTAIN KIRK!
NAVIGATOR--SET A COURSE FOR THE CLOSEST OF THOSE GLOWING PLANETS!
THE ENTERPRISE KNIFES INTO THE ASTEROID BELT AND ZEROES IN ON ITS DESIRED TARGET...
WE'LL ORBIT THE PLANET AT ALTITUDE FIVE THOUSAND FEET FOR TELESCOPIC VIEWING AND PHOTOGRAPHING BEFORE DISPATCHING A LANDING PARTY!
SUDDENLY, THE MAMMOTH SPACESHIP IS ROCKED BY A POWERFUL TURBULENCE...
WHAT DID WE HIT?
NOTHING, CAPTAIN! BUT THE NEEDLES OF OUR CONTROL PANEL ARE FLUCTUATING WILDLY, INDICATING AN ATMOSPHERIC DISTURBANCE!
UP THE INFRA-RED PERISCOPE, CREWMAN--AND LET'S SEE WHAT KIND OF DISTURBANCE IS OUT THERE!
YES, SIR!


HOWLING COMETS! WE'VE RUN SMACK INTO A HUGE ELECTRONIC FIELD THAT SHIELDS THE ENTIRE PLANET! IT'S... TRAPPED US, MR. SPOCK!
PERHAPS UNDER FULL POWER WE CAN BREAK OUT OF ITS GRIP, CAPTAIN!
U.S.S. ENTERPRISE
N.C.C-1701
LIKE SOME GREAT ENSNARED BEAST, THE ENTERPRISE STRUGGLES VIOLENTLY FOR HER FREEDOM -- BUT...
WE CAN'T BUDGE AN INCH! ANY SUGGESTIONS, MR. SPOCK?
IT'S QUITE POSSIBLE THE POWER SOURCE OF THIS FIELD IS ON THE PLANET *ITSELF*, CAPTAIN! IF WE DESTROY IT-
YOUR LOGIC IS UNASSAILABLE, SPOCK! WE'LL INVESTIGATE DOWN BELOW! EXPLORATION TEAM -- STAND BY FOR ACTION! I'M GOING ALONG WITH YOU!

MINUTES LATER, IN THE TELEPORTATION CHAMBER, BEAMS FROM ABOVE SUDDENLY ILLUMINATE THE EXPLORATION TEAM--AND THEN...
A SPLIT SECOND LATER, FOUR FIGURES MATERIALIZE ON THE GLOWING PLANET...
LOOK AT THOSE STRANGE MACHINES, CAPTAIN! WHAT ARE THEY? WHAT ARE THEY DOING HERE?
BEATS ME, FOSTER! LET'S HAVE A CLOSER LOOK!
HEY! THIS ONE DISPENSES FOOD!
AND THESE OTHER TWO CONTAIN A SUPPLY OF WATER-- AND CLOTHING!
OBVIOUSLY, WE ARE NOT ALONE HERE, BOYS...
ATTACK! ATTACK THE INTRUDERS!

THEY SEEK TO DESTROY OUR SUPPLIES! DESTROY THEM!
AS YOU COMMAND, TARGU!
TAKE COVER! SET PHASERS TO STUN-- PERHAPS I CAN REASON WITH THEM!
SWOOOSH!
WAIT! WE COME AS FRIENDS--NOT ENEMIES! OUR SPACESHIP ORBITS YOUR PLANET AT THIS VERY MOMENT!
SPACESHIP! CEASE THE ATTACK--WE WILL HEAR THE STRANGERS OUT!
ZAP
ZAP!
ZAP!
WOOOSH!
AND AFTER KIRK HAS EXPLAINED...
YOU MUST FORGIVE OUR ASSAULT MY FRIENDS-- BUT OUR NERVES HAVE BEEN ON EDGE SINCE WE WERE MAROONED HERE!
MAROONED, YOU SAY!
YES, OUR FREIGHTER SPACESHIP CRASH-LANDED HERE OVER A YEAR AGO! HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR THE SUPPLIES ABOARD, WE SURELY WOULD HAVE PERISHED!
THEN, THAT EXPLAINS THE DISPENSERS WE SAW!

WELL, TARGU--YOU CAN ALL BE AT EASE! CONSIDER YOURSELVES RESCUED--IF OUR SPACESHIP CAN EVER BREAK OUT OF THE ELECTRONIC FIELD TRAPPING IT!
ELECTRONIC FIELD? WE KNOW.. NOTHING ABOUT IT!
THE SOURCE MAY BE ON THE PLANET! THE SOONER WE FIND IT THE QUICKER WE'LL ALL BE OUT OF HERE! SEE YOU SOON, TARGU!
GOOD HUNTING, CAPTAIN KIRK!
THAT MUST BE ONE OF THEIR SHIPS, CAPTAIN! LET'S SEE HOW MUCH DIFFERENT THEIRS ARE FROM OURS!
ALL RIGHT, KENT, BUT LET'S MAKE IT QUICK! AFTER ALL, THAT'S NOT WHAT WE CAME FOR!
IT'S A SIMPLE ENOUGH CRAFT, ISN'T IT, CAPTAIN? I MEAN, HOW DO THEY CONTROL IT?
YES, VERY INTERESTING! LET'S RADIO A FULL DESCRIPTION TO MR. SPOCK! MAYBE HE CAN MAKE SOMETHING OF IT!
I HAVE ALL THAT INFORMATION, CAPTAIN! WE'RE RUNNING IT THROUGH THE COMPUTERS NOW! MEANWHILE WE'RE STILL WORKING ON BREAKING THE FORCE FIELD!

HERE'S THE REPORT, CAPTAIN! NO MATTER HOW DIFFERENT THEIR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY MAY BE, ONE THING IS SURE! THAT'S NO CARGO SHIP!
THANKS, SPOCK! KIRK OUT!
BUT WHY IS TARGU LYING TO US?
RIGHT NOW THAT'S ONE OF THE MYSTERIES OF THIS PLANET! AND UNTIL WE FIND OUT, TRUST NO ONE-- AND BE VIGILANT!
NO SIGNIFICANT READINGS IN THIS SECTOR, CAPTAIN!
THEN LET'S MOVE ON!
CAPTAIN KIRK, SIR--I MUST HAVE WORDS WITH YOU!
CAREFUL, MEN, BE READY FOR ANYTHING!
WHO IS THAT? COME OUT AND SHOW YOURSELF!
I AM LARA! I'VE COME TO WARN YOU OF TARGU! HE IS A BAD MAN AND HAS TOLD YOU A GREAT LIE!
AND I SUPPOSE YOU WANT TO TELL US THE TRUTH!

EXACTLY, CAPTAIN, BUT FIRST YOU MUST PROMISE TO PROTECT ME, TO TAKE ME WITH YOU WHEN YOU LEAVE!
I'LL PROMISE NOTHING, LARA, TILL I'VE HEARD YOUR STORY!
ALL RIGHT, I MUST TRUST YOU! I HAVE NO CHOICE! WE DID NOT CRASH-LAND HERE! WE WERE ROCKETED HERE IN ONE-WAY SPACE CRAFT! YOU SEE, WE ARE ...THE CONDEMNED!
CONDEMNED? YOU MEAN YOU'RE CONVICTS? THIS PLANET IS YOUR PRISON?
EXACTLY! THE GOVERNMENT OF OUR HOME PLANET HAS DEVISED A UNIQUE PUNISHMENT FOR CRIMINALS!
"ONCE EACH MONTH THEY HERD ALL THOSE CONVICTED OF CRIMES TO THE ROCKETPORT WHERE THEY ARE PLACED IN MISSILES..."
"THEN, WE ARE LAUNCHED TO ONE OF THE GLOWING PLANETS OF THIS ASTEROID BELT..."

"FOOD, WATER AND OTHER NECESSITIES ARE SUPPLIED TO US THROUGH AUTOMATIC MACHINES WHICH YOU HAVE ALREADY SEEN, SO WE SURVIVE UNTIL THE SENTENCE IS CARRIED OUT..."
SOUNDS LIKE A PRETTY PROGRESSIVE PENAL SYSTEM! HOW LONG MUST YOU REMAIN HERE?
PROGRESSIVE? IT'S SADISTIC! I TOLD YOU, CAPTAIN, WE ARE CONDEMNED! WE ARE HERE AWAITING EXECUTION!
EXECUTED? BUT WHEN AND HOW IS THE DEATH PENALTY CARRIED OUT?
WHEN? THAT'S THE HORROR OF IT! WE DON'T KNOW WHEN!
LOOK AT THAT WEASEL, LARA! TRYING TO SAVE HIS MISERABLE NECK, I'LL BET!
YEAH, BY RUINING OUR CHANCE TO ESCAPE!
ROUND UP THE OTHERS! BUT STAY UNDER COVER! DON'T ATTACK UNLESS I GIVE THE WORD! MAYBE I CAN STILL TALK OUR WAY OUT OF THIS!

WE DON'T KNOW IF WE HAVE A WEEK -- OR A YEAR! THE METHOD IS SIMPLICITY ITSEL--
OHHHHH!
SORRY TO STARTLE YOU! BUT LARA IS DANGEROUS! OUR LONG STAY HERE ON THIS BARREN PLANET HAS TWISTED HIS MIND AND MADE A MADMAN OF HIM!
HE SOUNDED MIGHTY SANE TO ME! BUT I'M WILLING TO HEAR YOUR SIDE OF IT, TARGU!
AND SO YOU SHALL, CAPTAIN! BUT IN MY OWN--
--WAY!
NOW! ATTACK!
OOOFF!
THE SURPRISE ATTACK CATCHES THE ENTERPRISE TEAM COMPLETELY OFF BALANCE...
LOOK OUT!
MY PHASER!
DON'T KILL THEM! TAKE THEM ALIVE!

I GET IT NOW, TARGU... YOU'RE THE BULLY OF THIS PLANETARY PRISON... YOU AND YOUR BUNCH OF HENCHMEN!
CAPTAIN! OUR PHASERS!-
TOO LATE! FORGET THEM! OUR ONLY CHANCE IS TO GET AWAY LONG ENOUGH FOR THE SHIP TO BEAM US ABOARD!
OWWWW!
WHILE ABOARD THE ENTERPRISE...
I THINK WE'VE GOT IT... A MEANS TO SHORT-CIRCUIT THE FORCE FIELD AND BREAK CLEAR! KEEP YOUR FINGERS CROSSED, SCOTTY!
AND AS SPOCK RELEASES A FLOOD OF ENERGY FROM THE ENTERPRISE...
I'M FLOODING THE AREA WITH COUNTER ENERGY! ADMINISTER FULL POWER TO THE ENGINES!
FOR A MOMENT, THE MIGHTY SPACE VESSEL SHUDDERS AS HER ROCKETS BLAST ON FULL... THEN...
WE'VE DONE IT! OUR COUNTER ENERGY IS CUTTING A HOLE THROUGH THE FORCE FIELD! WE'RE FREE!

SEE IF YOU CAN REACH THE CAPTAIN, LIEUTENANT! THERE'S NO FURTHER NEED FOR HIM TO STAY BELOW!
MR. SPOCK! COME HERE QUICKLY! LOOK AT THIS!
AS SOON AS WE BLASTED HOLES IN THE FORCE FIELD, WE GOT A READING ON THE INFRA-RED SEISMOGRAPH! LOOK AT THAT NEEDLE JUMP!
FIND OUT WHAT'S CAUSING IT! THAT'S A CRITICAL READING!
KIRK TO ENTERPRISE! DO YOU READ ME?
LOUD AND CLEAR, CAPTAIN! WE'VE BROKEN THROUGH THE ELECTRONIC TRAP! WE'RE THROUGH!
AND CAPTAIN, WE'RE GETTING A CRITICAL READING ON THE SEISMOGRAPH! DO YOU FEEL TREMORS DOWN THERE?
NEVER MIND THAT NOW! BEAM US ABOARD-- IMMEDI-ATELY!
STAND BY TO BEAM EXPLORATION PARTY ABOARD, ON MY COMMAND! READY...

AND AT THIS MOMENT...
ON MY COMMAND, HURL THE TRAP NET! READY...
HURL! AND POUNCE ON THEM BEFORE THEY CAN GET FREE!
READY TO TELEPORT PARTY ABOARD, MR. SPOCK!
MR. SPOCK! STOP! DO NOT BEAM US UP!
CAPTAIN! WHY DID YOU STOP US?
BECAUSE, SPOCK, YOU WOULD ALSO HAVE TAKEN ABOARD SOME UNWELCOME VISITORS!
CAPTAIN, YOU ARE OUR PRISONERS NOW! SO IF YOU'RE GOING BACK ABOARD THE SHIP, YOU'LL HAVE TO TAKE US WITH YOU!

YOU AND YOUR MURDEROUS HENCHMEN ABOARD THE ENTERPRISE, TARGU? NEVER! WE'RE A FULLY EQUIPPED FIGHTING SPACESHIP! YOU CAN'T HOLD US FOREVER!
WE CAN TRY!
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO, MR. SPOCK?
ONE THING WE WON'T DO IS PANIC! A LITTLE LOGIC WILL SOLVE THIS PROBLEM! LET'S CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITIES!
THE CAPTAIN IS THEIR INSURANCE! THEY DON'T DARE HARM--
MR. SPOCK! I'VE FOUND THE CAUSE OF THE SEISMOGRAPH READING! IT'S... IT'S...
AND IT IS THEN THAT MR. SPOCK SENDS THROUGH A SHOCKING REPORT FROM THE ENTERPRISE...
CAPTAIN KIRK! I-I'VE FOUND THE PROBLEM ON YOUR PRISON PLANET! ITS HEART IS A MOLTEN BALL OF FIRE!
... AN INTERNAL VOLCANO THAT WILL BLOW THE PLANET INTO A SUPER NOVA WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR HOURS!
END PART I

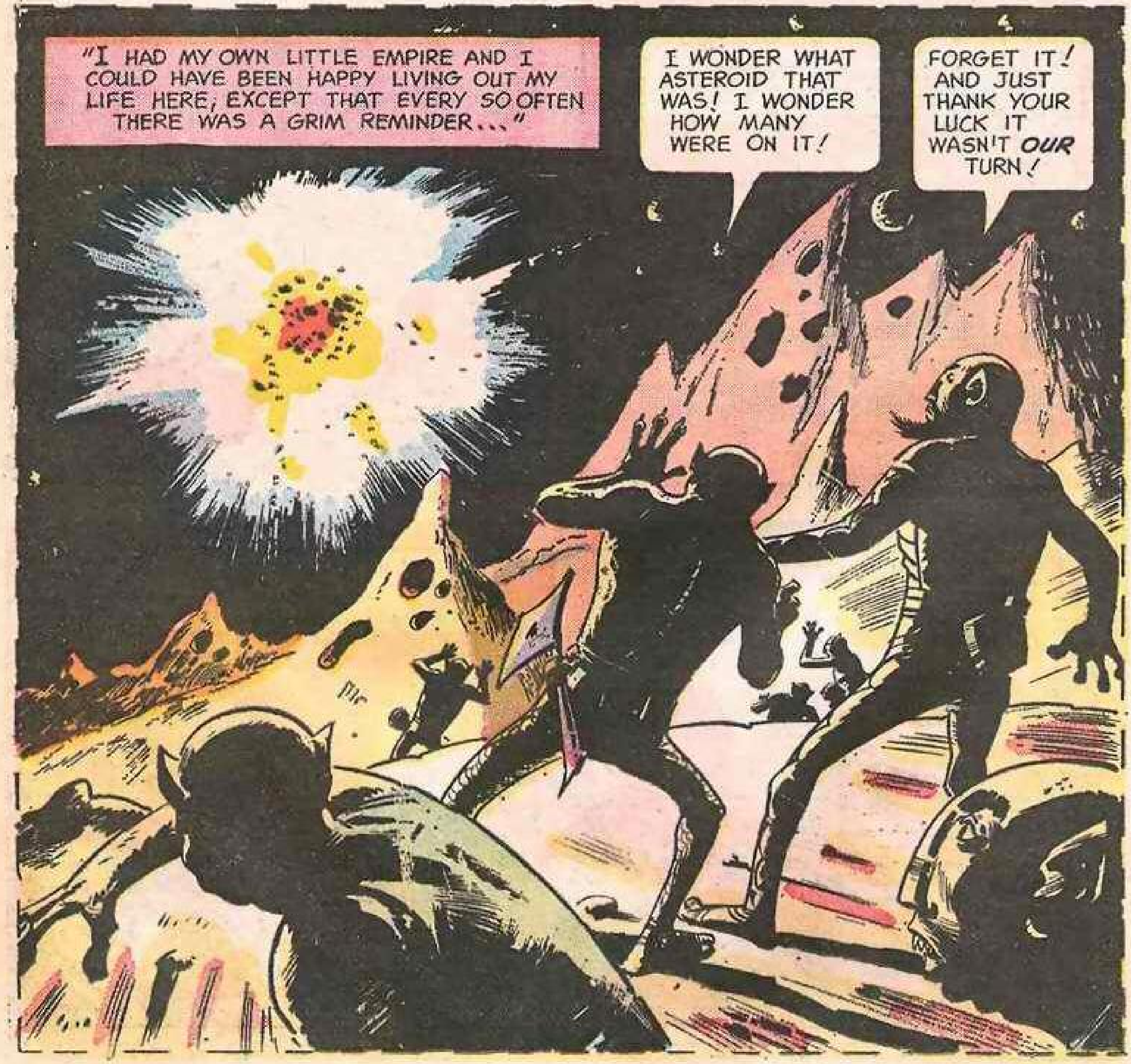
STAR TREK
The Secret of... EXECUTION ASTEROID
PART II
CAPTAIN'S LOG, STAR DATE 19:04.5-- WE ARE IN A DESPERATE PLIGHT! MR. SPOCK HAS JUST INFORMED US THAT THE CRIMINAL ASTEROID WE ARE UPON IS DUE TO EXPLODE WITHIN 24 HOURS... AND THERE IS NO CHANCE OF ESCAPE WITHOUT ENDANGERING THE ENTERPRISE AND HER MISSION...
TH-THE ASTEROID IS GOING TO EXPLODE! ARE YOU SURE, MR. SPOCK?
POSITIVE, CAPTAIN KIRK!
SO...THE SECRET OF ASTEROID X IS OUT, EH, KIRK!
SO THAT'S HOW YOU GALAXY KILLERS ARE EXECUTED...BY EXPLODING ASTEROIDS?
EXACTLY! A MOST UNIQUE MANNER OF CAPITAL PUNISHMENT, IS IT NOT?
YOU SEE, IT HAS THE ADDED BEAUTY OF MENTAL TORTURE... FOR NONE KNOW JUST WHEN THE SUPER NOVA EFFECT WILL TAKE PLACE...
ONLY YOUR INGENIOUS MR. SPOCK HAS LEARNED THAT!

AS LARA, THE BETRAYER, INFORMED YOU-- WE CRIMINALS ARE LAUNCHED TO THE DEATH ASTEROIDS BY ROCKET...
"EACH MONTH THE CONDEMNED LEAVE THE HOME PLANET FOREVER IN ONE-WAY MISSILES..."
WHICH ASTEROID DO YOU THINK WE'LL LAND ON, TARGU?
WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE? THEY'RE ALL ALIKE!
EXCEPT FOR ONE THING... THEY DON'T ALL BLOW UP AT THE SAME TIME!
"NOT EVERYBODY LOOKS AT HIS NEW LIFE THE SAME WAY. SOME ARE WEAK AND GIVE UP ALL HOPE, OTHERS ARE STRONG..."
HOW LONG DO WE HAVE, TARGU? A WEEK...A MONTH?
MAYBE WE HAVE MANY YEARS! AND I INTEND TO MAKE THE MOST OF EVERY MINUTE!

MOVE THAT FOOD DISPENSER OVER HERE WHERE WE CAN PROTECT IT! AND THEN GET THE DISPENSERS OUT OF THE OTHER SHIPS!
I'M ENTITLED TO MY RATIONS THE SAME AS EVERY-BODY ELSE!
YOU'LL GET RATIONS WHEN TARGU SAYS SO! IF YOU WANT TO EAT, YOU'LL WORK FOR TARGU!
"IN TIME WE DISMANTLED THE ROCKETS THAT BROUGHT US HERE AND MADE HALFWAY DECENT LIVING QUARTERS..."
IT ISN'T RIGHT, TARGU'S NO BETTER THAN THE REST OF US!
IF YOU WANT TO FIGHT IT OUT WITH THOSE KILLERS OF HIS, GO AHEAD! I'LL DO AS HE SAYS AND TAKE WHAT HE GIVES ME!
YES, CAPTAIN, I MADE THE PEOPLE ON THIS PLANET--ALL MURDERERS, THIEVES AND TOUGHS--RESPECT ME, FEAR ME, OBEY ME! TARGU ALWAYS MAKES OUT! TARGU ALWAYS SURVIVES!
I'M GLAD TO KNOW THE KIND OF CREATURE I'M DEALING WITH!

"WHEN THINGS GOT ROUGH I KNEW WHAT TO DO..."
THE DISPENSERS ARE RUNNING LOW ON FOOD!
CUT THE RATIONS! AND LET'S HOPE A COUPLE OF ROCKETS LAND *HERE* THIS MONTH!

"WHEN THE ROCKETS *DID* LAND, WE POUNCED ON THEM..."
WELCOME TO *TARGU'S* ASTEROID!
QUICKLY! UNLOAD THEIR DISPENSERS AND BRING THEM TO *OUR* AREA!


"I HAD MY OWN LITTLE EMPIRE AND I COULD HAVE BEEN HAPPY LIVING OUT MY LIFE HERE, EXCEPT THAT EVERY SO OFTEN THERE WAS A GRIM REMINDER..."
I WONDER WHAT ASTEROID THAT WAS! I WONDER HOW MANY WERE ON IT!
FORGET IT! AND JUST THANK YOUR LUCK IT WASN'T *OUR* TURN!

WELL, I GUESS IT IS OUR TURN NOW! GIVE ME THAT BLASTED RADIO OF YOURS, KIRK!
MR. SPOCK, THIS IS TARGU, THE BIG BOSS OF ASTEROID X! HEED MY WORDS WELL, GENIUS MAN OF THE ENTERPRISE!
YOUR CAPTAIN KIRK WILL BE JUST AS DEAD AS WE WILL IF YOU DON'T TELEPORT MY MEN TO YOUR SHIP WITH YOUR OWN!
NOT EVERYBODY, SPOCK, JUST ME AND MY LOYAL, TRUSTED MEN! ANSWER ME, SPOCK!
I TAKE MY ORDERS FROM MY CAPTAIN, NOT FROM YOU, TARGU! LET ME SPEAK WITH HIM!
HE WANTS TO TALK WITH YOU! I'LL GIVE YOU THIRTY SECONDS! REMEMBER, YOUR LIFE DEPENDS ON IT!

BRING ONLY A HANDFUL OF HIS MEN ABOARD, IN EXCHANGE FOR YOUR SAFETY! IT SEEMS LIKE AN ACCEPTABLE BARGAIN!
NO!
THIS CHARACTER IS DEADLY! AND CLEVER! I'M AT HIS MERCY NOW! AND HE ISN'T GOING TO TURN ME LOOSE ON BOARD THE ENTERPRISE! HE'LL HOLD A KNIFE AT MY THROAT EVERY SECOND!
BUT HE LEAVES US NO OTHER CHOICE, CAPTAIN!
YES, HE DOES, SPOCK-- ONE OTHER CHOICE! YOU'RE TO TAKE COMMAND OF THE ENTERPRISE AND TAKE HER AWAY FROM THIS POWDER KEG OF AN ASTEROID AS FAST AS YOU CAN! THAT'S AN ORDER, MR. SPOCK!
YOU WON'T DO IT, SPOCK! YOU CAN'T LEAVE THE CAPTAIN DOWN THERE--
SURELY, THERE MUST BE SOME WAY--
YOU HEARD THE CAPTAIN'S ORDER, GENTLEMEN!
ON THE OTHER HAND, YOU ALSO HEARD THE CAPTAIN GIVE ME COMMAND OF THE SHIP PRIOR TO THAT! SO TECHNICALLY, I AM NOT BOUND BY THAT ORDER!
SPOCK, YOUR VULCAN LOGIC WINS AGAIN!

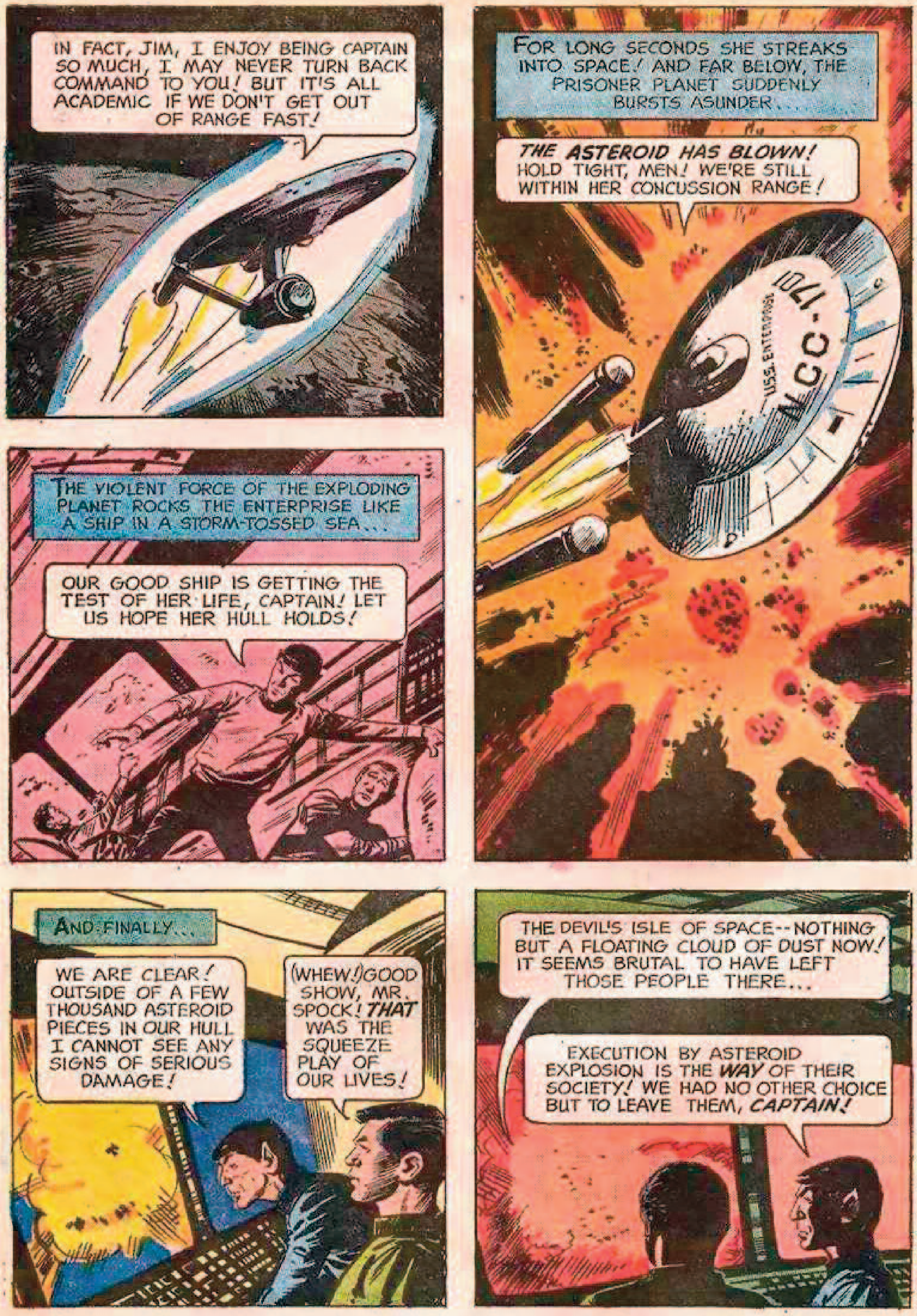
HOWEVER, WE STILL HAVE TO RESCUE THE CAPTAIN WITHOUT BRINGING THOSE ALIEN MURDERERS ABOARD! AND WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME!
SHADES OF PLUTO! I THINK I HAVE THE ANSWER!
QUICKLY, SCOTTY, INTO DAMAGE CONTROL! WE HAVE WORK TO DO!
GET THOSE METAL SECTIONS DOWN! HAVE YOUR MEN READY FOR SOME SUPER-FAST CONSTRUCTION WORK! I'LL BE BACK IN A MINUTE!
THAT I WILL, MR. SPOCK... WHATEVER YOUR PLAN MIGHT BE!
THROUGH THE NIGHT, THE ENTERPRISE TEAM AWAIT THEIR EXPLOSIVE FATE...
WHAT A SORRY WAY TO GO -- TRAPPED WITH KILLERS ON A DOOMED ASTEROID!
NOTHING, FOSTER, NOT EVEN OUR LIVES MUST JEOPARDIZE THE ENTERPRISE AND HER MISSION...
THAT'S THE IMPORTANT THING -- FOR OUR SHIP OF THE STAR FLEET TO CONTINUE SEARCHING THE UNKNOWN AND UNLOCK ITS MYSTERIES!

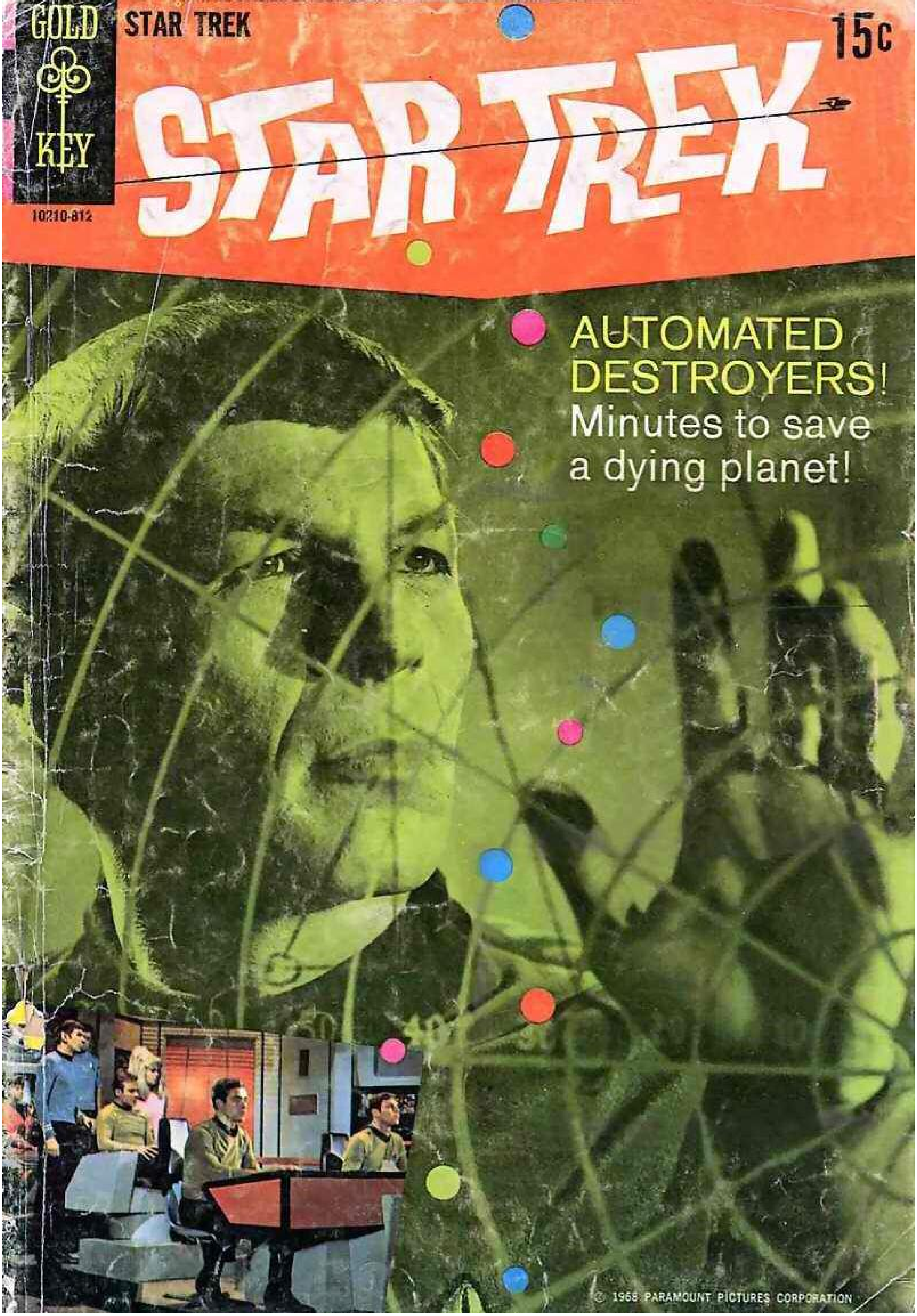
HOURS LATER, AS DAWN BREAKS OVER THE DOOMED ASTEROID...
CAPTAIN KIRK! LOOK--THERE IN THE SKY!
WH-WHAT IS IT, FOSTER?
ROCKET TRAIL! WE'RE HAVING VISITORS!
BUT WHO WOULD WANT TO ROCKET DOWN ON A DOOMED ASTEROID?
THE GALAXY AUTHORITIES HAVE SENT MORE PRISONERS FOR EXECUTION! THE POOR FOOLS WILL HAVE LITTLE TIME TO LIVE!
THEY MUST HAVE FOOD DISPENSERS ABOARD! AT LEAST WE'LL HAVE ONE LAST FEAST!
COME ON, MEN!
LOOK AT THAT CHARACTER! A THIEF AND A THUG RIGHT TO THE END!

THEN, AS THE BOSS CONVICT APPROACHES THE DESCENDING CRAFT...
LOOK OUT! THE GALAXY PRISONER-ROCKET HAS GONE WILD! IT IS NOT LANDING IN THE REGULAR FASHION!
PRISONER HUTS ARE SMASHED APART AS THE ROCKET CAREENS DOWN FOR A LANDING...
CRAAAASH!
FINALLY, IT SKIDS TO A HALT...
ALL RIGHT, MEN! LET'S GET THOSE DISPENSERS! MAYBE WE CAN EAT OURSELVES TO DEATH BEFORE THIS ASTEROID BLOWS!
SCREECH!

BUT AS THE ROCKET PORT SWINGS OPEN...
TARGU! TH-THEY ARE NOT GALAXY PRISONERS!
SCOTTY! SPOCK'S SENT A RAIDING PARTY DOWN TO HELP US!
IT'S A TRICK! GET BACK TO OUR PRISONERS BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
BUT IT IS ALREADY TOO LATE...
STAND FAST! WAIT FOR SCOTTY TO REACH US!
ABRUPTLY, MR. SPOCK'S VOICE CRACKLES OVER CAPTAIN KIRK'S RADIO...
CAPTAIN! IS MR. SCOTT'S RAIDING PARTY SUCCEEDING?
AFFIRMATIVE! HE'S ISOLATING THE CONVICTS WITH THOSE FIRE BOMBS!
HURRY, SIR! TELL SPOCK TO BEAM US ABOARD! THAT FIRE WALL WON'T LAST LONG!

WE ARE CLEAR, MR. SPOCK! BUT CONVICTS ARE APPROACHING THROUGH A BREAK IN THE FIRE WALL!
I AM THROWING TELEPORTATION SWITCH NOW, CAPTAIN!
INSTANTLY, THE FIGURES BEGIN TO DISAPPEAR FROM THE DOOMED ASTEROID...
AND MOMENTS LATER THEIR BODIES TAKE FORM IN THE TELEPORTATION CHAMBER OF THE ENTERPRISE
ALL ROCKETS ON FULL!
WHEN YOU INSPECTED THAT ROCKET YOU FOUND, JIM, I NEVER DREAMED HOW VALUABLE THAT INFORMATION--
SPOCK! YOU RISKED THIS SHIP AND THE LIVES OF EVERY MAN ABOARD!
AS A MAN, I COULD FORGET THAT! BUT AS AN OFFICER, I CAN'T FORGET YOU DISOBEYED A DIRECT ORDER!
OH, BUT I DIDN'T, JIM, AS DR. McCOY AND MR. SCOTT WILL EXPLAIN!


IN FACT, JIM, I ENJOY BEING CAPTAIN SO MUCH, I MAY NEVER TURN BACK COMMAND TO YOU! BUT IT'S ALL ACADEMIC IF WE DON'T GET OUT OF RANGE FAST!
FOR LONG SECONDS SHE STREAKS INTO SPACE! AND FAR BELOW, THE PRISONER PLANET SUDDENLY BURSTS ASUNDER...
THE ASTEROID HAS BLOWN! HOLD TIGHT, MEN! WE'RE STILL WITHIN HER CONCUSSION RANGE!
U.S.S. ENTERPRISE
NCC-1701
THE VIOLENT FORCE OF THE EXPLODING PLANET ROCKS THE ENTERPRISE LIKE A SHIP IN A STORM-TOSSED SEA...
OUR GOOD SHIP IS GETTING THE TEST OF HER LIFE, CAPTAIN! LET US HOPE HER HULL HOLDS!
AND FINALLY...
WE ARE CLEAR! OUTSIDE OF A FEW THOUSAND ASTEROID PIECES IN OUR HULL I CANNOT SEE ANY SIGNS OF SERIOUS DAMAGE!
(WHEW!) GOOD SHOW, MR. SPOCK! THAT WAS THE SQUEEZE PLAY OF OUR LIVES!
THE DEVIL'S ISLE OF SPACE--NOTHING BUT A FLOATING CLOUD OF DUST NOW! IT SEEMS BRUTAL TO HAVE LEFT THOSE PEOPLE THERE...
EXECUTION BY ASTEROID EXPLOSION IS THE WAY OF THEIR SOCIETY! WE HAD NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO LEAVE THEM, CAPTAIN!



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AUTOMATED DESTROYERS!
Minutes to save a dying planet!
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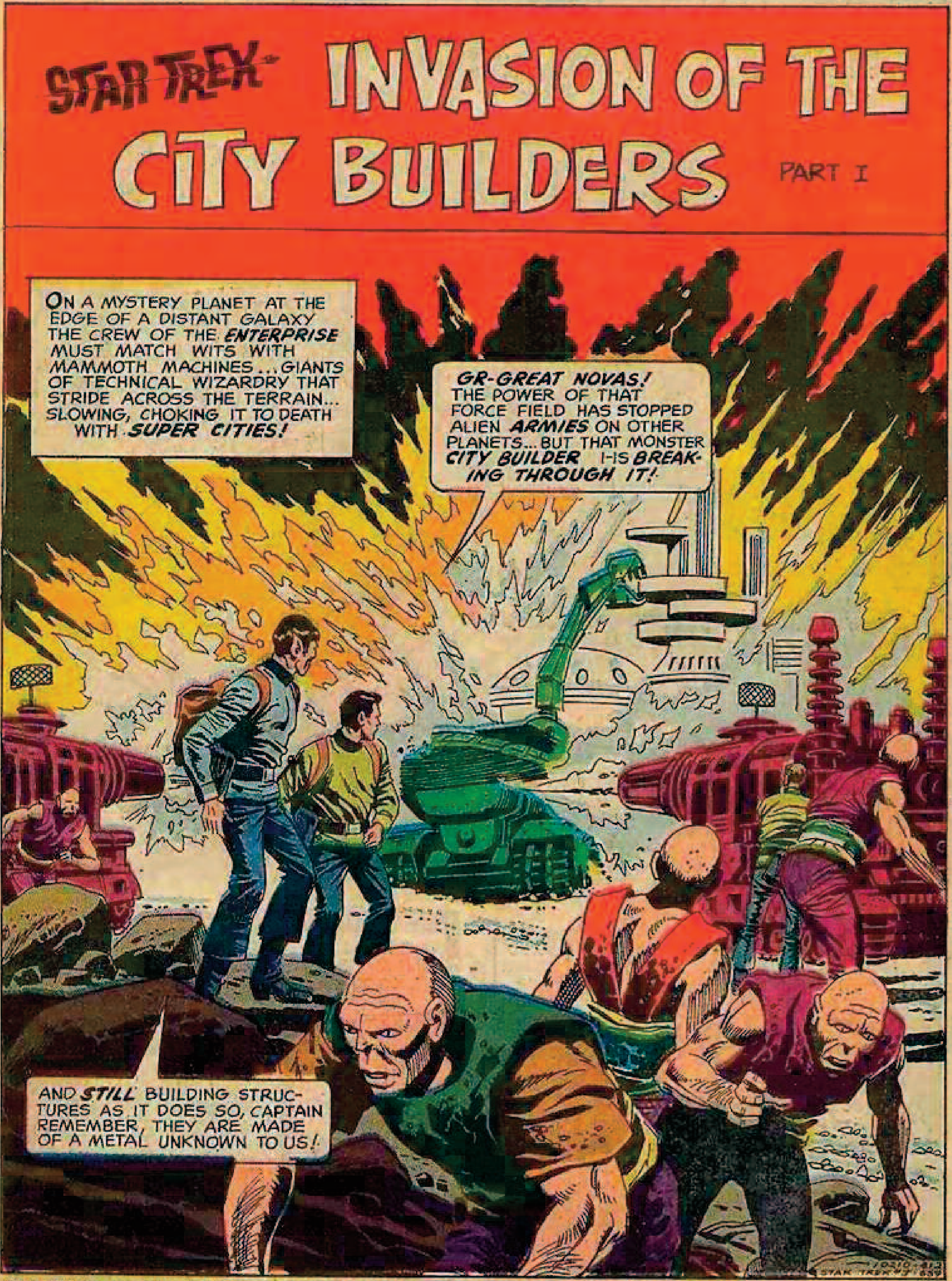

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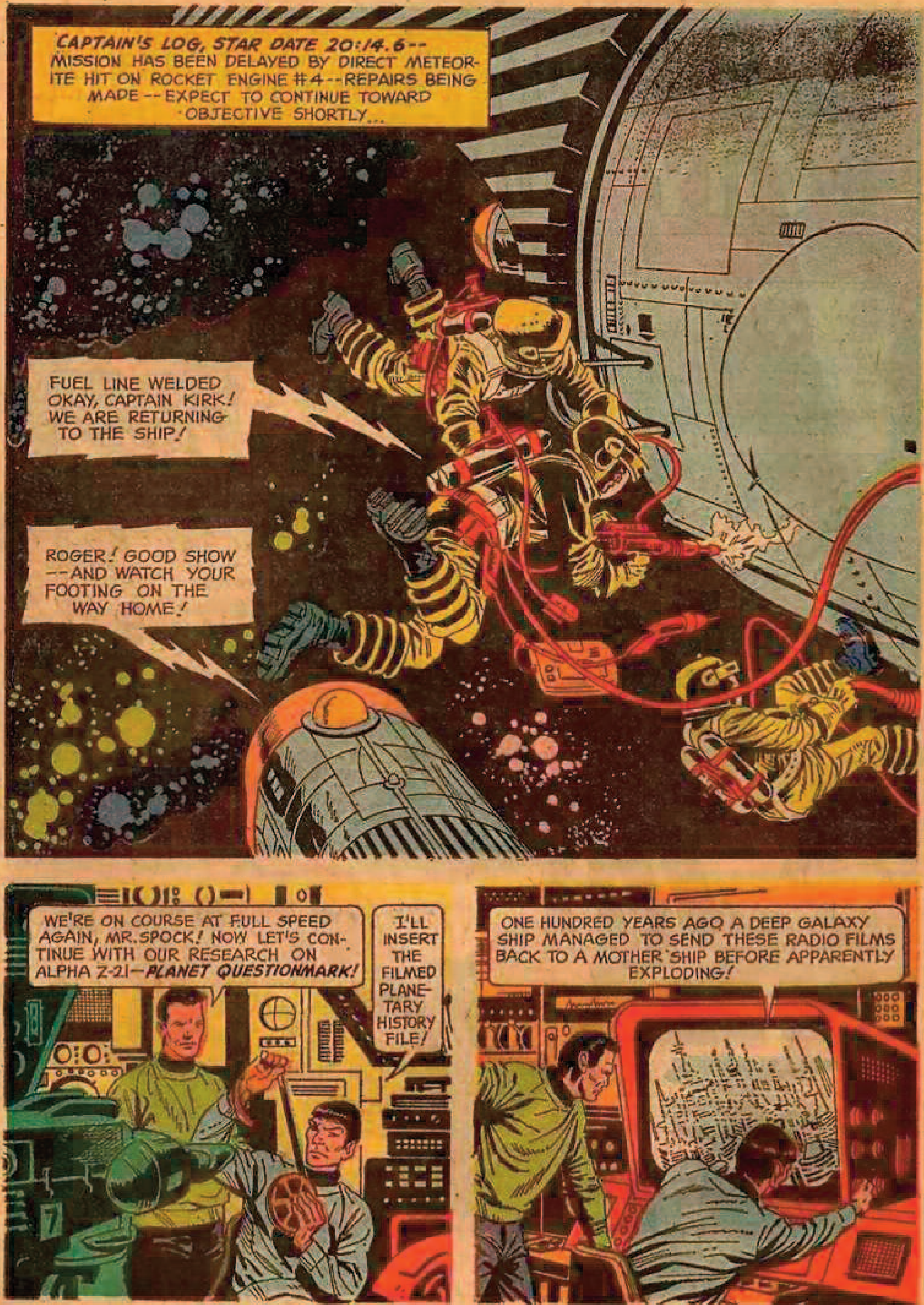


CAPTAIN'S LOG, STAR DATE 20:14.6-- MISSION HAS BEEN DELAYED BY DIRECT METEORITE HIT ON ROCKET ENGINE #4--REPAIRS BEING MADE--EXPECT TO CONTINUE TOWARD OBJECTIVE SHORTLY...
FUEL LINE WELDED OKAY, CAPTAIN KIRK! WE ARE RETURNING TO THE SHIP!
ROGER! GOOD SHOW --AND WATCH YOUR FOOTING ON THE WAY HOME!
WE'RE ON COURSE AT FULL SPEED AGAIN, MR. SPOCK! NOW LET'S CONTINUE WITH OUR RESEARCH ON ALPHA Z-21—PLANET QUESTIONMARK!
I'LL INSERT THE FILMED PLANETARY HISTORY FILE!
ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO A DEEP GALAXY SHIP MANAGED TO SEND THESE RADIO FILMS BACK TO A MOTHER SHIP BEFORE APPARENTLY EXPLODING!

THEN, AS THE RADIO-PHOTO FILMS TAKEN A CENTURY BEFORE FLOOD A PICTURE ON THE SCREEN...
EVIDENTLY THE SPACE-SHIP WAS RECONNOITERING THE PLANET AT LOW ALTITUDE AND USED A TELESCOPIC CAMERA!
A BANK OF ULTRA-MODERN MACHINES..
THEY APPEAR TO BE WORKING TOGETHER IN SOME SORT OF A MECHANICAL COMPLEX!
THE CITIZENS! OBVIOUSLY THEY'RE OF A HIGH CIVILIZATION... BEING WAITED ON BY MACHINES!
YES-S, MR. SPOCK! IT LOOKS AS IF THEY BELIEVE IN A LIFE OF COMFORT!
STRANGE! THERE WEREN'T ANY CITIZENS SEEN ABOUT THAT MAMMOTH MACHINE COMPLEX... NO WORKERS!
THE PICTURE'S FADING, CAPTAIN! WE CAME INTO POSSESSION OF ONLY A FEW SECONDS OF FILM!
CAPTAIN TO CONTROL! WHAT IS OUR ESTIMATED ARRIVAL TIME AT ALPHA Z-21?
TWO LUNAR HOURS ONE GALAXY MINUTE, SIR!

AND EXACTLY TWO LUNAR HOURS LATER, AS THE PAIR LOOKS THROUGH TELESCOPIC VIEW SCANNER...
THERE SHE IS--A MYSTERY PLANET IN THE GALAXY FOR CENTURIES!
OXYGEN READING HIGH, CAPTAIN! THE ATMOSPHERE IS FULL OF IT! THERE ARE INDICATIONS OF WATER...
ROGER, MR. SPOCK!
CUT SPEED AND BRING HER DOWN, CONTROL!
...AND ALSO LARGE MASSES OF METALLIC MATTER OVER THE PLANET!
LIKE A GLISTENING WHITE COMET, THE ENTERPRISE CUTS THROUGH THE ATMOSPHERE AND GLIDES ACROSS THE PLANET...
WE'VE COME IN OVER SOME SORT OF SUPER-CITY! CAN YOU MAKE OUT ANY LIFE, MR. SPOCK?
NOTHING, CAPTAIN!
FOR A HUNDRED MILES, THE REMARKABLE EXPLORATION CRAFT SOARS OVER THE ALIEN TERRAIN AND...
INCREASE SPEED!
MILE AFTER MILE OF URBAN COMPLEX WITHOUT SIGN OF LIFE!
BUT STILL ANOTHER NINE HUNDRED MILES LATER
BUILDING AFTER BUILDING, STREET AFTER STREET... EMPTY, BARREN! WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT, MR. SPOCK?
UTTER BEWILDERMENT! THERE ARE NO SIGNS OF A CATASTROPHE, THE STRUCTURES SHOW NO DECAY! MOST PERPLEXING!

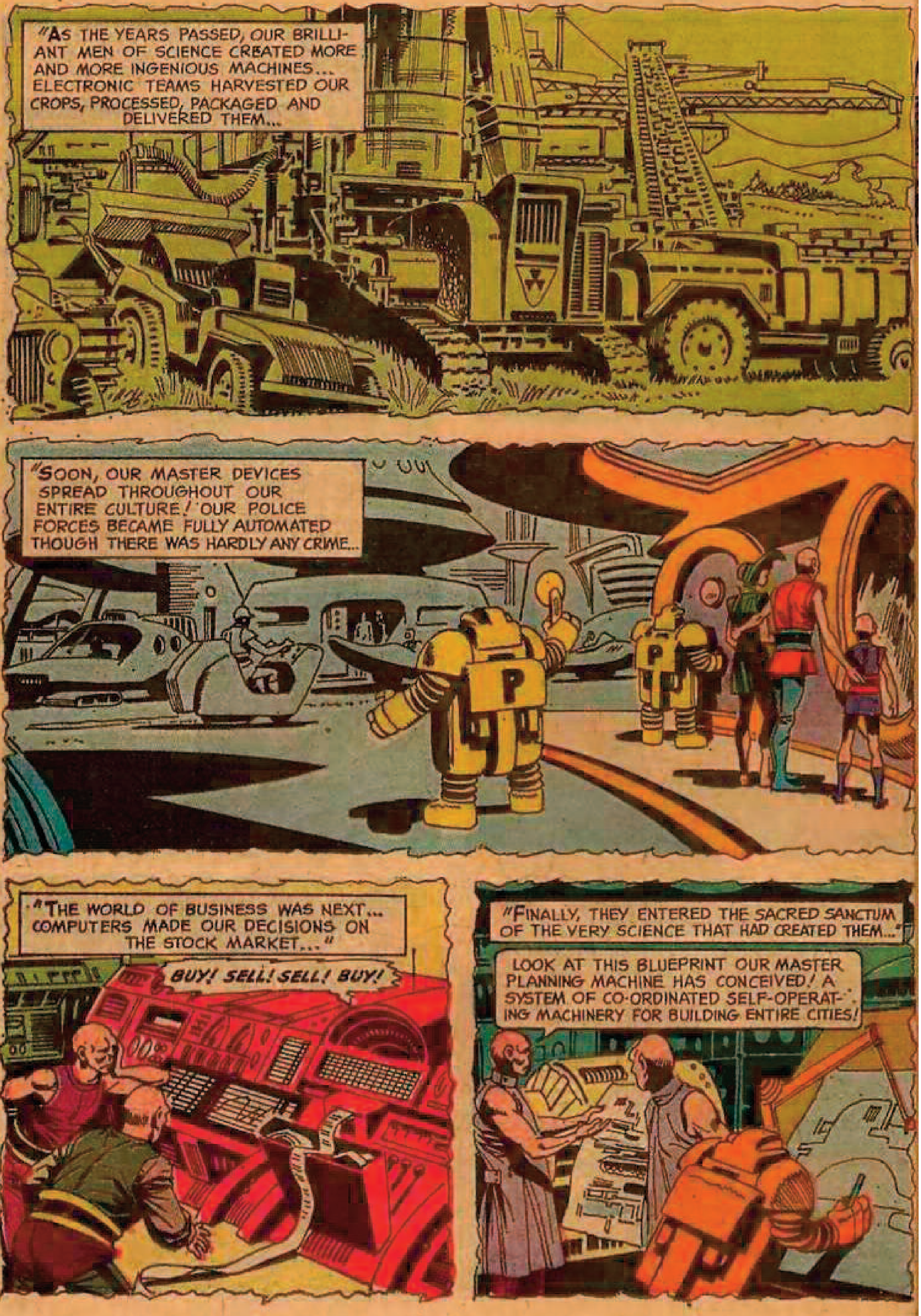
FINALLY, AS THE ENTERPRISE ROCKETS AHEAD AT INCREASED SPEED...
OPEN AREA AHEAD! THAT'S WHERE OUR TELEPORTATION TEAM CAN LAND! TAKE HER INTO ORBIT AND PREPARE TELEPORT CHAMBER!
ROGER, CAPTAIN!
HER GARGANTUAN ROCKETS WHIP THE ENTERPRISE INTO ORBIT FAR ABOVE PLANET QUESTIONMARK...
MR. SPOCK, YOU'D BETTER JOIN US ON THE EXPLORATION TEAM! YOUR TECHNICAL SERVICES MAY BE NEEDED TO UNRAVEL OUR MYSTERY!
READY TO GO, CAPTAIN!
N C C 1701
MOMENTS LATER, BEAMS IN THE TELEPORTATION CHAMBER ILLUMINATE THE EXPLORATION TEAM...
AND A MICRO-SECOND AFTERWARD, THE FIGURES MATERIALIZE ON ALPHA Z-21...
(WHEW-W!) WHY, THE SUPER-CITY ENDS ABRUPTLY... AS IF IT HAD BEEN CUT OFF WITH A KNIFE BEFORE IT WAS COMPLETE!
OUR FIRST OPERATION SHOULD BE TO SEARCH FOR SIGNS OF LIFE WITHIN THOSE BIZARRE BUILDINGS!
BUT AS CAPTAIN KIRK GIVES INSTRUCTIONS TO HIS MEN, HE CAN NOT KNOW THAT THE LIFE HE SEEKS HAS ALREADY FOUND HIM...
ALIEN VISITORS! WHAT SHALL WE DO NOW, OH, GREAT LEADER, KRILL?
FRIENDS OR ENEMIES, THEY MUST AWAIT OUR ATTENTION! PLANS CAN NOT BE CHANGED NOW!

AND SUDDENLY, AS THE WORDS HAVE BARELY LEFT KRILL'S MOUTH...
IT COMES!
RUMBLE!
WHILE AT THE ENTERPRISE LANDING CREW SITE...:
T-THE GROUND SHAKING! EARTHQUAKE!
NO! IT IS SOME SORT OF SURFACE DISTURBANCE!
THEN...
MR. SPOCK! OVER THERE--- IT LOOKS LIKE A PARADE OF HEAVY EQUIPMENT!
YES! THAT'S WHAT IS CREATING THE DISTURBANCE!
A FEW MINUTES LATER, THE MEN OF THE ENTERPRISE GAPE IN AWE AS...
WHY, THEY'RE CREATING BUILDINGS, ROADS-- EXTENDING THE CITY!
BUT THOSE MACHINES--THERE'S NOBODY OPERATING THEM! IT'S POSITIVELY EERIE!

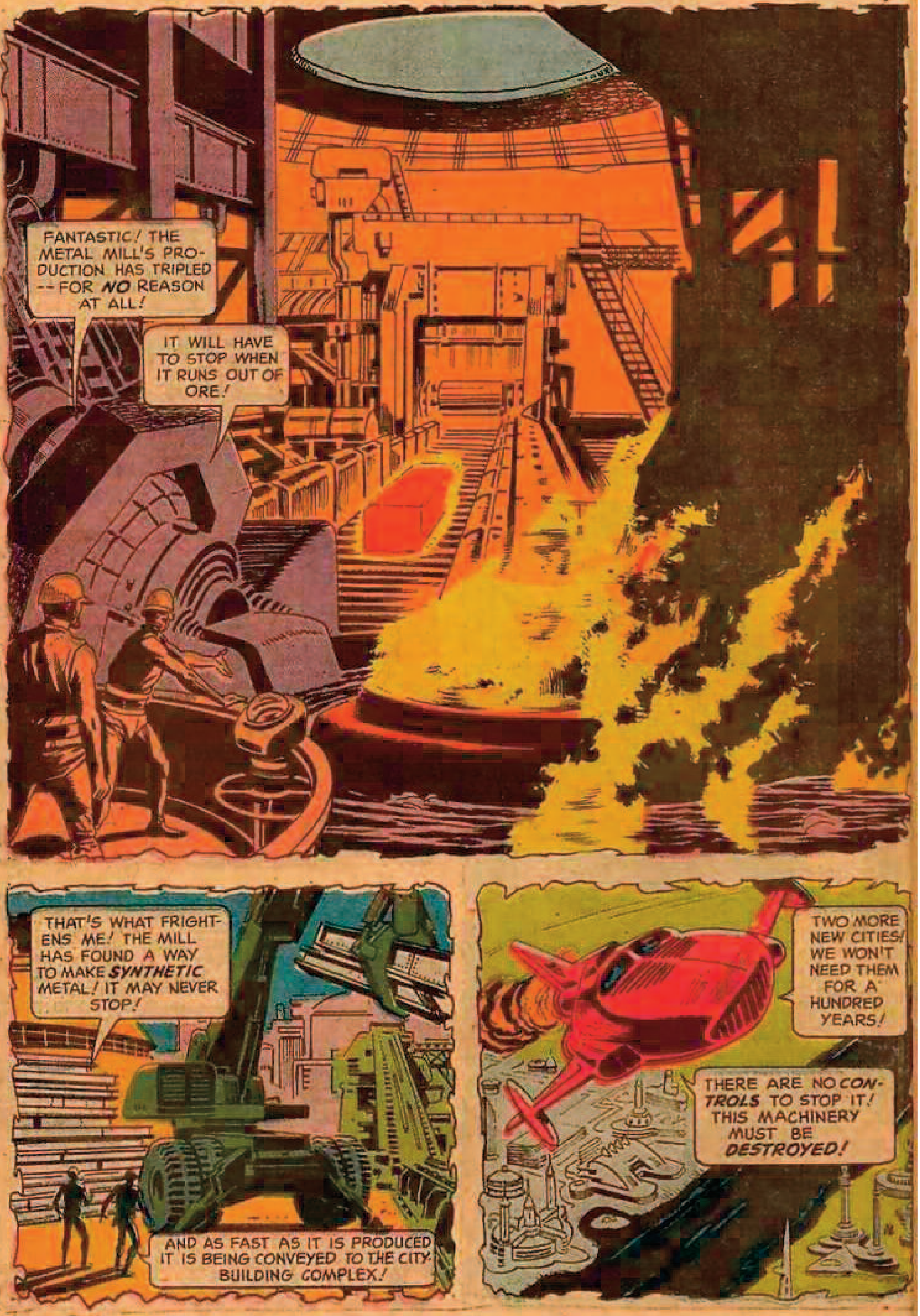
FANTASTIC! AT THIS RATE, SPOCK, IT CAN CONSTRUCT A SKYSCRAPER IN FORTY-EIGHT HOURS!
UP THERE ON THE BUILDING, CAPTAIN-- THERE IS YOUR PLANETARY LIFE!
THE PEOPLE HAVE LEAPED ONTO THE BUILDING-MAKER! THEY SEEM TO BE TRYING TO STOP THE THING! LET'S GO! BRING THE LASER RIFLE!
AS IF IT SENSES THE PRESENCE OF SOMETHING ALIEN ON IT, THE MONSTROUS MACHINE SHUDDERS, SHAKING THE PEOPLE OFF ITS BEAMS...
THE MACHINE SEEMED TO KNOW THEY WERE THERE, SPOCK, AND IT KNEW WHAT TO DO ABOUT IT!
LET'S SEE WHAT A LASER BEAM CAN DO!

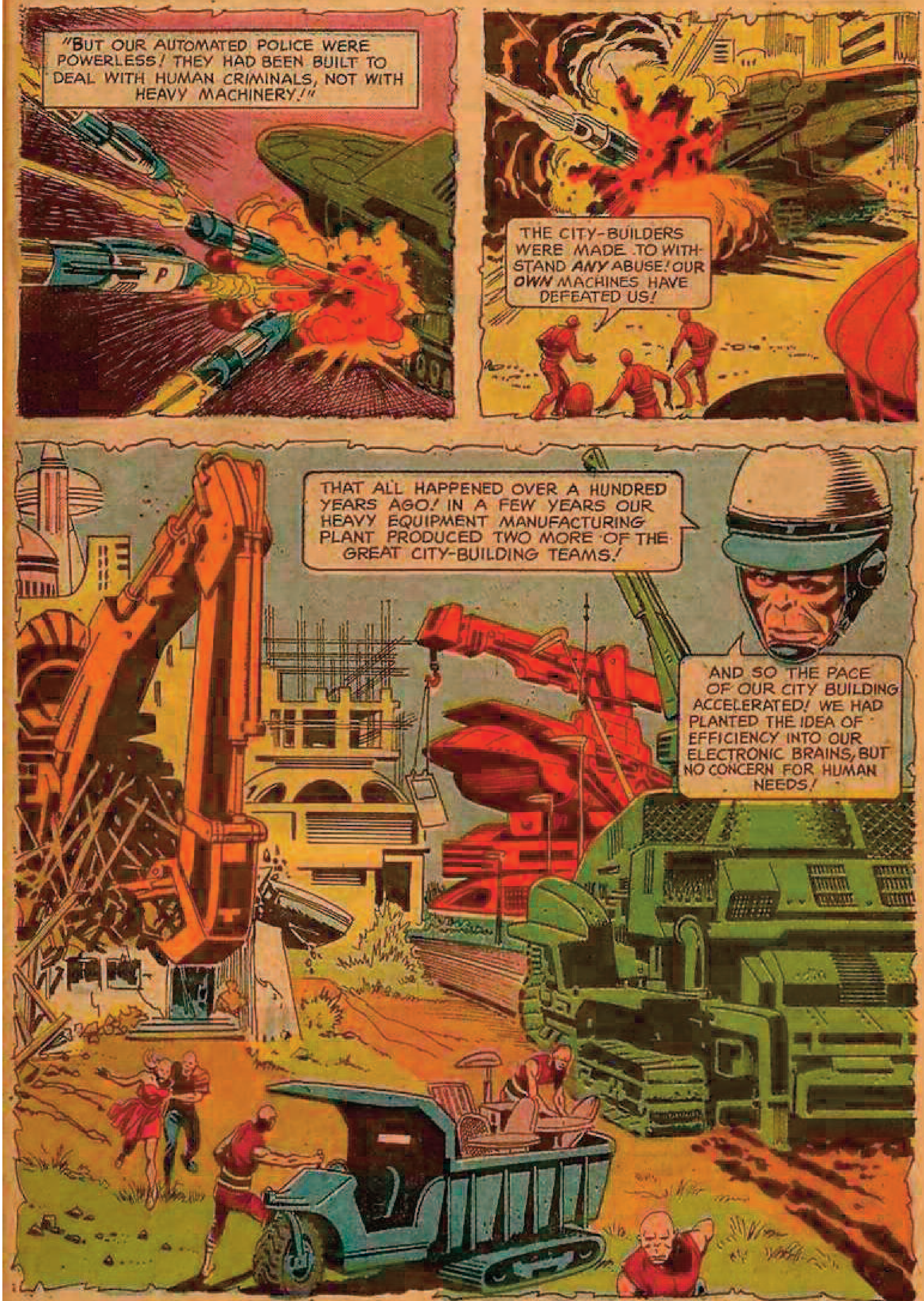
A BEAM OF SUPER-INTENSIFIED LIGHT STREAKS INTO THE MACHINE'S INNARDS AND
I THINK YOU HAVE SHORT-CIRCUITED IT, CAPTAIN!
YOU HAVE! THE MACHINE HAS STOPPED BUILDING! IT'S WITH-DRAWING! AND ALL THE OTHER MACHINERY WITH IT! AMAZING!
BUT WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PEOPLE?
THERE!
TENSELY, CAUTIOUSLY, THE ALIENS COME INTO THE OPEN... AND AS KIRK SPEAKS IN THE INTERPLANETARY LANGUAGE ESPERANTA...
THEY'RE AFRAID OF US...
WE ARE FRIENDS! WE ONLY COME TO AID YOU!

THANK YOU, VISITORS FROM ANOTHER WORLD! WE OWE YOU A GREAT DEBT!
YOU OWE US NOTHING, SIR-- EXCEPT PERHAPS AN EXPLANATION TO YOUR MONSTROUS PROBLEM HERE!
YOU COULD NOT DESTROY THE MONSTER CITY MAKER--BUT YOU HAVE FORCED IT TO GO BACK FOR REPAIRS!
PLEASE...TELL US WHO YOU ARE...AND HOW THAT FANTASTIC MACHINE CAME TO BE!
IT IS A LONG AND SHAMEFUL STORY! I AM KRILL-- LEADER OF ALL WHO REMAIN OF THE CIVILIZATION ON THE PLANET ZARTA!
150 YEARS AGO WE WERE A PROUD AND PROSPEROUS RACE OF MANY MILLIONS! TODAY, A DOZEN OF THOSE MECHANICAL DEMONS RULE THE PLANET AND THREATEN MY VILLAGE IN THE MOUNTAINS YONDER!
"IT FIRST BEGAN WHEN OUR SUPER-CIVILIZATION BEGAN EXPERIMENTING WITH MACHINES TO TAKE OVER OUR EVERYDAY CHORES..."
LETTER... FOR... URGO FAMILY!


"As the years passed, our brilliant men of science created more and more ingenious machines... electronic teams harvested our crops, processed, packaged and delivered them...
"Soon, our master devices spread throughout our entire culture! Our police forces became fully automated though there was hardly any crime...
"The world of business was next... computers made our decisions on the stock market..."
BUY! SELL! SELL! BUY!
"Finally, they entered the sacred sanctum of the very science that had created them..."
LOOK AT THIS BLUEPRINT OUR MASTER PLANNING MACHINE HAS CONCEIVED! A SYSTEM OF CO-ORDINATED SELF-OPERATING MACHINERY FOR BUILDING ENTIRE CITIES!

AH, YES... WE WERE LIVING IN UTOPIA! OUR NECESSITIES WERE ALL PROVIDED FOR US! BUSINESS AND COMMERCE WERE SYSTEMATIZED AND CARRIED OUT BY OUR KNOWLEDGE PROCESSING MACHINES, FAR MORE ASTUTE THAN HUMAN MINDS!
"OUR LEADERS SMUGLY WATCHED AS OUR AUTOMATED FACTORY CREATED THE MOST COMPLEX MACHINERY OF ALL--THE CITY BUILDER!"
A GREAT TRIUMPH! SOON ALL FORMS OF LABOR WILL BE ELIMINATED!
THERE'S NO END TO WHAT OUR MACHINES CAN ACHIEVE!
"IN LESS THAN A MOON MONTH IT WAS FINISHED-- AND IT FULFILLED OUR HIGHEST EXPECTATIONS..."
NO HUMAN HAND COULD CONSTRUCT A CITY SO PERFECT... SO SYMMETRICAL IN EVERY DETAIL!
BUT REMEMBER, IT TOOK MAN TO CREATE THE MACHINES WHICH CREATED THE MACHINE WHICH BUILT THE CITY!
"THEN IT BEGAN... THE FIRST NOTE IN WHAT WAS SOON TO BE A MELODY OF DOOM FOR THE PLANET ZARTA..."
TH-THE CITY BUILDER! I-IT HAS GONE BERSERK... THE MACHINE IS DIGGING INTO THE MOUNTAINSIDE!
KAZAR! HOW CAN THIS BE?
SEE THERE! T-THE SUPER REFRIGERATION UNIT WE BUILT INTO OUR CITY BUILDER IS COOLING THE MOLTEN GIRDERS I-IN SECONDS!
A WHOLE NEW CITY? WHY? THIS MACHINERY IS SUPPOSED TO BUILD ONLY ACCORDING TO NEED!
IT WILL HAVE TO STOP WHEN IT RUNS OUT OF MATERIALS!


FANTASTIC! THE METAL MILL'S PRODUCTION HAS TRIPLED -- FOR NO REASON AT ALL!
IT WILL HAVE TO STOP WHEN IT RUNS OUT OF ORE!
THAT'S WHAT FRIGHTENS ME! THE MILL HAS FOUND A WAY TO MAKE SYNTHETIC METAL! IT MAY NEVER STOP!
AND AS FAST AS IT IS PRODUCED IT IS BEING CONVEYED TO THE CITY-BUILDING COMPLEX!
TWO MORE NEW CITIES! WE WON'T NEED THEM FOR A HUNDRED YEARS!
THERE ARE NO CONTROLS TO STOP IT! THIS MACHINERY MUST BE DESTROYED!


"BUT OUR AUTOMATED POLICE WERE POWERLESS! THEY HAD BEEN BUILT TO DEAL WITH HUMAN CRIMINALS, NOT WITH HEAVY MACHINERY!"
THE CITY-BUILDERS WERE MADE TO WITHSTAND ANY ABUSE! OUR OWN MACHINES HAVE DEFEATED US!
THAT ALL HAPPENED OVER A HUNDRED YEARS AGO! IN A FEW YEARS OUR HEAVY EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURING PLANT PRODUCED TWO MORE OF THE GREAT CITY-BUILDING TEAMS!
AND SO THE PACE OF OUR CITY BUILDING ACCELERATED! WE HAD PLANTED THE IDEA OF EFFICIENCY INTO OUR ELECTRONIC BRAINS, BUT NO CONCERN FOR HUMAN NEEDS!

BUT WITH YOUR FANTASTIC SCIENTIFIC ADVANCES SURELY YOU COULD DEVISE A MEANS TO STOP THIS MECHANICAL ONSLAUGHT!
CAPTAIN KIRK, MACHINES HAD BEEN DESIGNING, PROGRAMMING AND PRODUCING MACHINES FOR YEARS! MAN NO LONGER UNDERSTOOD THEM!
BUT ACTUALLY, IT WAS THIS TINY LITTLE GEAR THAT REALLY SOUNDED THE DEATH KNELL FOR ZARTA!
YOU SEE, AFTER YEARS OF AUTOMATED PAMPERING OUR PEOPLES WERE LIKE CHILDREN BEING FED IN A CRIB! WHEN THIS ONE SMALL GEAR BROKE DOWN WE BEGAN TO STARVE...
THIS WAS OUR MASTER AGRICULTURAL UNIT! WITHOUT IT, OUR FOOD COULD NOT BE HARVESTED, PROCESSED, PACKED, OR DISTRIBUTED!
AND IT COULD NOT BE REPLACED!.. FOR ITS SECRET HAD BEEN LOST!
WHY DIDN'T THE PEOPLE GO BACK TO THE FIELDS! THEY COULD FEED THEMSELVES AS THEY DID BEFORE -- IN THE OLD-FASHIONED MANNER!
WE NOT ONLY DID NO PHYSICAL LABOR, WE COULD NO LONGER EVEN THINK, PLAN, LOOK AHEAD, MAKE DECIONS! MAN WAS OBSOLETE!
OF COURSE! IT WOULD TAKE TIME... ANOTHER GENERATION, PERHAPS, TO RELEARN THINGS! KRILL...THE CREW OF THE ENTERPRISE WILL TRY TO HELP YOU!
IT'S NO USE, CAPTAIN KIRK! SOON EVERY SQUARE INCH OF ZARTA WILL BE COVERED WITH GLEAMING CITIES—AND THERE WON'T BE A SOUL LEFT TO LIVE IN THEM!
CONTINUED

STAR TREK
The BRIDGE TO CATASTROPHE
PART II
ON ZARTA, THE MYSTERY WORLD REFERRED TO AS PLANET QUESTIONMARK, THE CREW OF THE ENTERPRISE JOIN FORCES WITH THE LAST OF AN ALIEN CIVILIZATION TO STOP THE TERRIBLE "PROGRESS" OF... THE CITY BUILDERS!
THEY COME-- THREE OF THEM! THERE ARE ONLY TEN THOUSAND ACRES OF OF OPEN LAND LEFT ...IF THEY BUILD ON THAT, OUR PLANET IS FINISHED!
SIT TIGHT, KRILL! WE'LL WORK SOMETHING OUT!
THEN, KRILL'S MEN SWARM OUT OF HIDING...
KRILL! WHAT SHALL WE DO? THE IRON ONES COME AGAIN!
DO NOT FEAR, ZIKA--OUR ALIEN FRIENDS ARE HERE TO HELP US! OUR VISITORS COME FROM A GREAT SPACE-SHIP CALLED ENTERPRISE! THEY... UNDER-STAND OUR PROBLEM!

WE'LL HAVE A SOCIAL LATER, GENTLEMEN! RIGHT NOW, THOSE MACHINES HAVE TO BE DEALT WITH...
WHAT DO YOU THINK, MR. SPOCK? CAN WE DO ANYTHING TO STOP THEM FROM CONTINUING THE CITY COMPLEX ONWARD?
THEIR VIBRATIONS REGISTER THAT THEY WEIGH OVER A THOUSAND TONS, CAPTAIN...
IF WE MADE A TRENCH WITH OUR EARTH DIS-INTEGRATORS IN THEIR PATH WE MIGHT MOUSE-TRAP THEM! WITH SUCH WEIGHT THEY MAY BECOME BOGGED DOWN...
QUICKLY, THE "SOIL DESTROYERS" ARE BROUGHT INTO PLAY...
HURRY! THOSE GAR-GANTUAN GADGETS ARE HEADING FOR THE EDGE OF THE CITY COMPLEX LIKE MOTHS TO A CANDLE!
WE'RE DOWN A HUNDRED FEET-- THAT SHOULD DO IT!
ZZZZZZZ
IT HAS SUCCEEDED JUST AS THE CITY-BUILDERS BEGAN TO BUILD THEY HAVE TUMBLED INTO THE ALIEN-MADE PIT! YOUR FRIENDS ARE WISE, OH KRILL!
HOLD UP! THE SHOW ISN'T OVER YET!
CLOSER...CLOSER THE IRON STRUCTURE-MAKING CREATURE COME...UNTIL...

FOR A MOMENT ALL IS STILL... THEN THE MACHINES THUMP INTO ACTION ONCE AGAIN...
SPOCK!
TH-THEY ARE BUILDING STRUCTURES BENEATH THEM, RAISING THEMSELVES OUT OF YOUR PIT! WH-WHAT SHALL WE DO NOW, CAPTAIN KIRK?
MY PEOPLE—THEY ARE TURNING TO THE ALIENS FOR GUIDANCE NOW! THEY IGNORE ME!
A FORCE FIELD, MR. SPOCK! IT MAY WORK!
AND SHORTLY, AS THE MASTERS OF CEMENT AND STEEL CLIMB OUT OF THE TRENCH ATOP THEIR OWN CONSTRUCTION WORK...
HERE THEY COME! THE POWER OF THAT FORCE FIELD HAS STOPPED ARMIES... IT SHOULD JOLT THOSE METAL MONSTERS SOME!
PERHAPS! BUT THEY ARE OF A METAL UNKNOWN TO US, CAPTAIN!
A BLAZING BLAST OF LIGHT ERUPTS AS THE CITY BUILDERS THUNDER INTO THE FORCE FIELD...
THEY'RE CAUGHT GOOD AND SQUARE!
BUT LOOK--THEY'RE STILL BUILDING STRUCTURES!
IT'S GOT TO HOLD ... IT MUST!
SPUTTER
WHOOOOSH

THEN...
FANTASTIC! THE FORCE FIELD ISN'T POWERFUL ENOUGH! THEY'LL BE COMING TO A BIG RIVER SOON! SURELY THAT WILL STOP THEM!
NO! NO!
YOU MEAN THOSE HEAVY MACHINES CAN CROSS RIVERS THIS SIZE? BUT HOW?
THEY HAVE THE CONCENTRATED INTELLIGENCE OF A THOUSAND ENGINEERS WITHIN THEM!
EVERY OBSTACLE THEY FACE BECOMES A SIMPLE EXERCISE IN PROBLEM SOLVING! YOU SAW HOW THEY OVERCAME YOUR DITCH! WATCH WHEN THEY REACH THE WATER'S EDGE!
THEY HAVE IDENTIFIED THE PROBLEM! NOW THEY ARE ANALYZING IT AND DECIDING WHAT ACTION TO TAKE!
SWIFTLY, THE MACHINES SWING INTO ACTION. WITHIN HALF AN HOUR THEIR SOLUTION BECOMES OBVIOUS...
OF COURSE! THEY'RE BUILDING A BRIDGE!
SO LOGICAL, SO SIMPLE! BUT STILL, CAPTAIN, MOST REMARKABLE!

INCREDIBLE! NOW THE MACHINE WILL SINK ANOTHER TOWER IN MID-RIVER, AND THEN--
WE MUST ATTACK IT AGAIN, BEFORE IT GETS ACROSS!
WE HAVE ATTACKED, KRILL, AND FAILED! WE MUST BE AS LOGICAL, AS ANALYTICAL AS THEY ARE!
MEANING YOU INTEND TO DO NOTHING!
THERE IS ONE POSSIBILITY, CAPTAIN --WE MUST FIND A WEAKNESS IN THEIR MIRACLE METAL!
SPOCK TO ENTERPRISE: TELEPORT AT ONCE METALLIC TEST KIT! OUR CO-ORDINATES ARE...
WITHIN MINUTES, THE REQUESTED EQUIPMENT MATERIALIZES...
CAN YOU REALLY FIND A FLAW IN THE METAL, MR. SPOCK?
THOUGH I'M NOT FAMILIAR WITH ALL SUBSTANCES IN THE UNIVERSE, LOGIC TELLS ME EVERY SUBSTANCE CAN BEEN BROKEN DOWN BY SOME PROCESS!
WHICH MAY TAKE YEARS TO DISCOVER!

THE FIRST THING WE MUST DO, CAPTAIN, IS OBTAIN A SAMPLE OF THE METAL!
THAT ISN'T GOING TO BE EASY!
IF THE BOAT JUST HOLDS STEADY NOW...
CAPTAIN! THAT BOAT! LOOK OUT!
THE LASER GUN CAN'T CUT THROUGH THE METAL, SPOCK, BUT IF WE CAN BURN THROUGH A HOISTING CABLE, THE GIRDER MIGHT FALL OUTSIDE THE BRIDGE!
IT'S A DELICATE SHOT, CAPTAIN!
KRILL! YOU FOOL! WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO?
ZARTA IS MY PLANET! THESE ARE MY PEOPLE!
YOU THINK YOU CAN TAKE OVER, DON'T YOU?-- WIN THEIR RESPECT WITH YOUR FALSE PROMISES! ALREADY THEY FORGET ME!

A MOST ILLOGICAL REACTION, KRILL! YOU NEED OUR HELP WHETHER YOU WANT IT OR NOT!
SEE IF YOU CAN BRING DOWN A BEAM, CAPTAIN!
GOOD SHOOTING, CAPTAIN! THE BEAM WILL FALL IN THE WATER! I'LL FISH IT OUT WITH THE MAGNO-HOOK!
SHORTLY, MR. SPOCK WORKS DESPERATELY WITH HIS CHEMICAL KIT...
TEST Z-12 SHOWS NO REACTION!
NOTHING SEEMS TO WORK!
I TOLD YOU! YOU'RE WASTING OUR PRECIOUS TIME!
HOLD IT! THE METAL HAS A MOLECULAR FLAW!
IT BREAKS DOWN ALMOST INSTANTLY TO A SIMPLE SOLUTION OF NH2!
FANTASTIC! A METAL THAT COULD PROBABLY WITHSTAND AN ATOMIC BLAST...YET A MILD AMINO ACID DISINTEGRATES IT!
CHEMICALS AND VATS ARE TELEPORTED DOWN FROM THE ENTERPRISE, AND HOURS LATER...
WE HAVE ENOUGH NOW TO TAKE CARE OF THAT BRIDGE. AND THOSE INFERNAL MACHINES, SPOCK! LET'S GET STARTED!
I DO NOT THINK WE SHOULD, JIM!

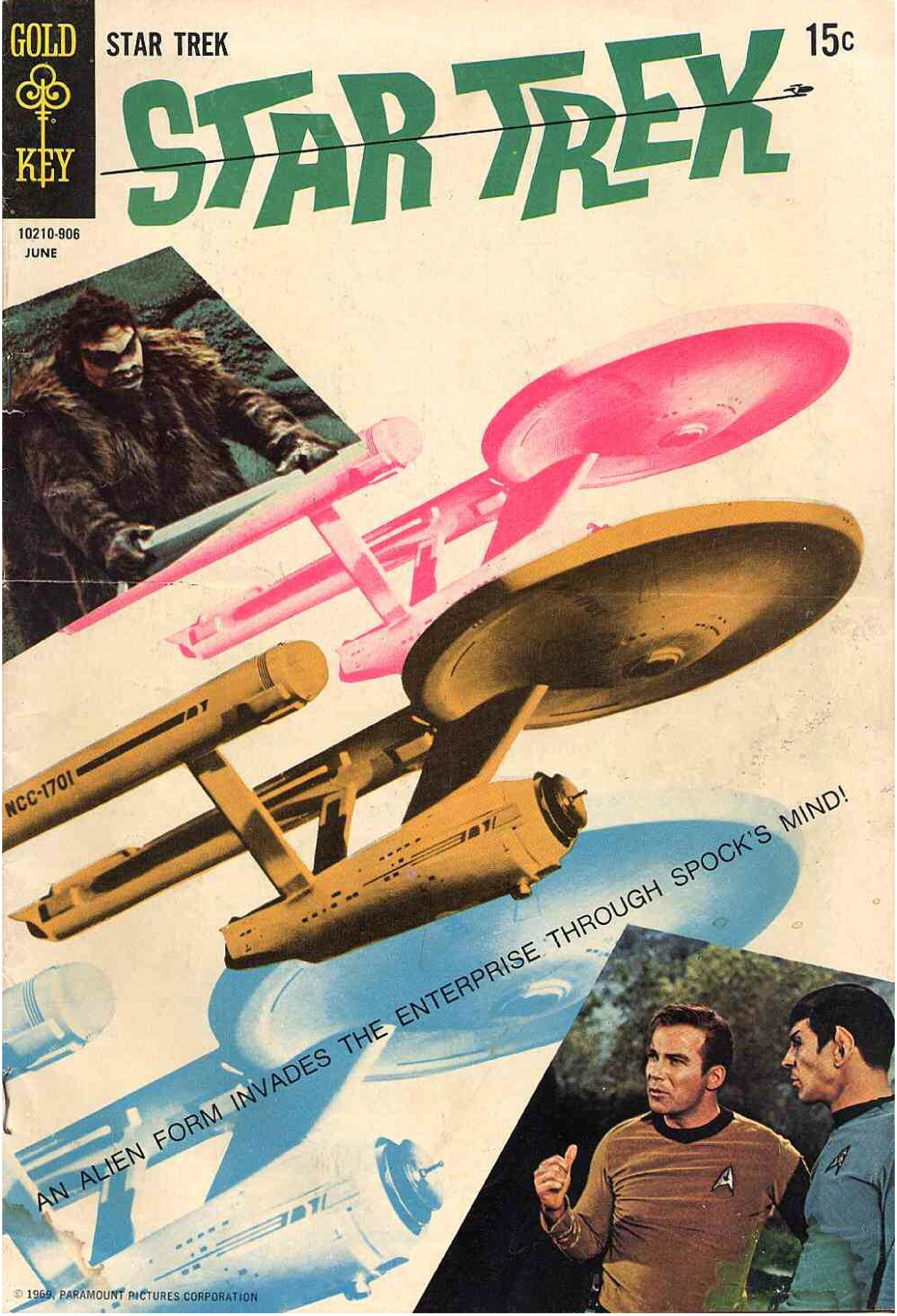
KRILL IS RIGHT! THESE ARE HIS PEOPLE! THIS IS HIS JOB!
OF COURSE!
WE HAVE A WEAPON NOW KRILL! BUT WE NEED YOU TO OPERATE IT! YOU KNOW THESE CUNNING MACHINES BETTER THAN WE DO! WILL YOU COME WITH US?
NO!
NO? YOU MEAN YOU'LL STAND BY AND LET YOUR PEOPLE BE DESTROYED?
I MEAN I'LL DO IT--ALONE!
ALONE? THAT'S SUICIDE?
ALONE I HELD THESE PEOPLE TOGETHER! WITHOUT ME THEY WOULD HAVE PERISHED YEARS AGO! I ALONE CAN SAVE THEM NOW!
WHY THAT EGOMANIAC! HE'S MORE CONCERNED WITH KEEPING HIS POWER THAN SAVING HIS PEOPLE!
HE'S VERY MUCH LIKE YOU EARTH PEOPLE IN THAT RESPECT, CAPTAIN!

AS KRILL MOVES IN ON THE BRIDGE...
OUR ACID SOLUTION WORKED IN THE TEST! NOW WE'LL SEE HOW IT WORKS IN ACTION!
IT'S SUCCEEDING! THE METAL IS BEGINNING TO MELT! MUST KEEP SPRAYING!
BUT ABOVE, THE GIANT MACHINE SENSES THAT SOMETHING IS WRONG-- AND REACTS...
RED-HOT RIVETS! THE BUILDER KNOWS I'M HERE!
THE BRIDGE ITSELF WILL SHELTER ME FROM THE RIVETS! BUT WHEN IT FAILS, CAN I GET AWAY?
THAT DID IT! IT'S COMING DOWN!

THE WHOLE BRIDGE AND ALL THE MACHINES ON IT--THEY'RE GOING DOWN TO THE BOTTOM OF THE RIVER!
BUT KRILL! WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM?
LOOK! THERE HE IS! OUR LEADER IS STILL ALIVE!
HUZZAH! HUZZAH!
YOU HAVE SAVED US, KRILL! WE ALL OWE YOU OUR LIVES!

I HATE TO SPOIL THE CELEBRATION, BUT THERE'S STILL A LOT TO DO!
THE ENTERPRISE CAN LOCATE THE OTHER CITY BUILDERS FOR US!
ABOARD THE ENTERPRISE, THEIR LOCATIONS ARE QUICKLY ESTABLISHED...
WE HAVE A FIX ON ALL MACHINES, CAPTAIN!
GOOD! GIVE ME THEIR CO-ORDINATES!
WE'D LIKE TO GO WITH YOU AND SEE THIS JOB THROUGH, KRILL, IF IT'S ALL RIGHT WITH YOU!
CAPTAIN KIRK, I'D BE PROUD TO HAVE YOU AND MR. SPOCK ALONGSIDE OF ME!
THE MACHINE WILL REACT QUICKLY AND COUNTERATTACK! WE MUST WEAKEN ITS UNDER-PINNING WITH OUR FIRST BLASTS!
THE METAL IS BUCKLING! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
RUN! I'LL BE RIGHT BEHIND YOU! I HAVE TO MAKE SURE THE DAMAGE CANNOT BE REPAIRED!

THAT WAS MUCH TOO CLOSE! THE OTHERS WILL BE EASIER!
CRRRACK
AND AFTER ALL THE CITY BUILDERS HAVE BEEN DESTROYED...
WELL, I GUESS THE HARDEST PART IS OVER!
YES, THANKS TO YOU AND YOUR MEN, CAPTAIN KIRK! NOW WE CAN DESTROY THE FACTORIES WHICH PRODUCE THE MACHINES!
AND WE STILL HAVE TO DEMOLISH SO MUCH OF OUR USELESS CITIES AND RECLAIM THE LAND!
AND AS THE MEN ARE BEAMED BACK TO THE ENTERPRISE...
IT WILL TAKE US GENERATIONS! BUT WE CAN AND WILL DO IT! GOOD-BYE, CAPTAIN!
STAR FLEET COMMAND IS PLEASED WITH OUR REPORT, MR. SPOCK!
NATURALLY, CAPTAIN! WE PRESERVED A CIVILIZATION WHICH WOULD OTHERWISE HAVE PERISHED! IT IS THE ONLY LOGICAL REACTION!
THE END


GOLD
KEY
STAR TREK
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AN ALIEN FORM INVADES THE ENTERPRISE THROUGH SPOCK'S MIND!
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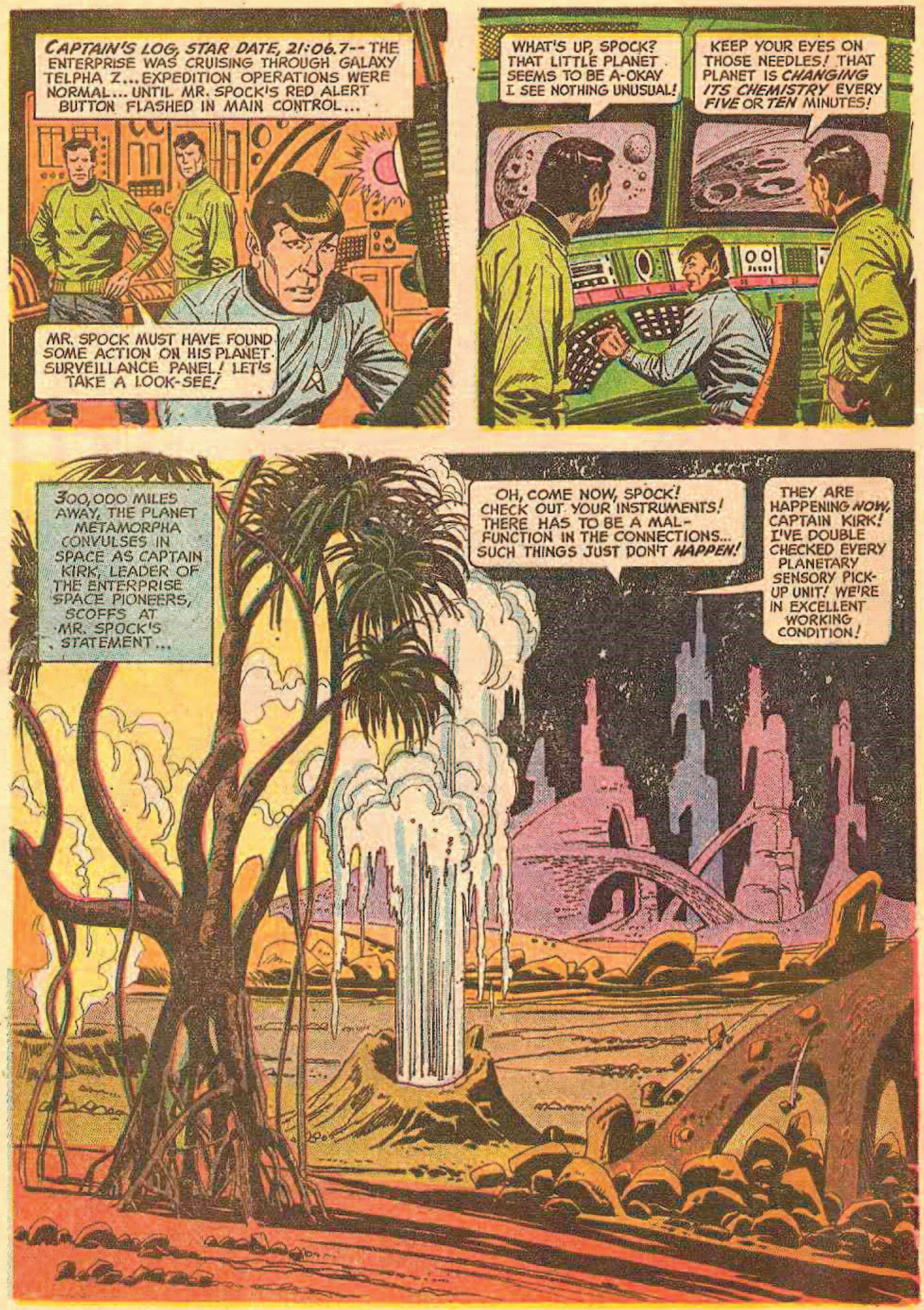
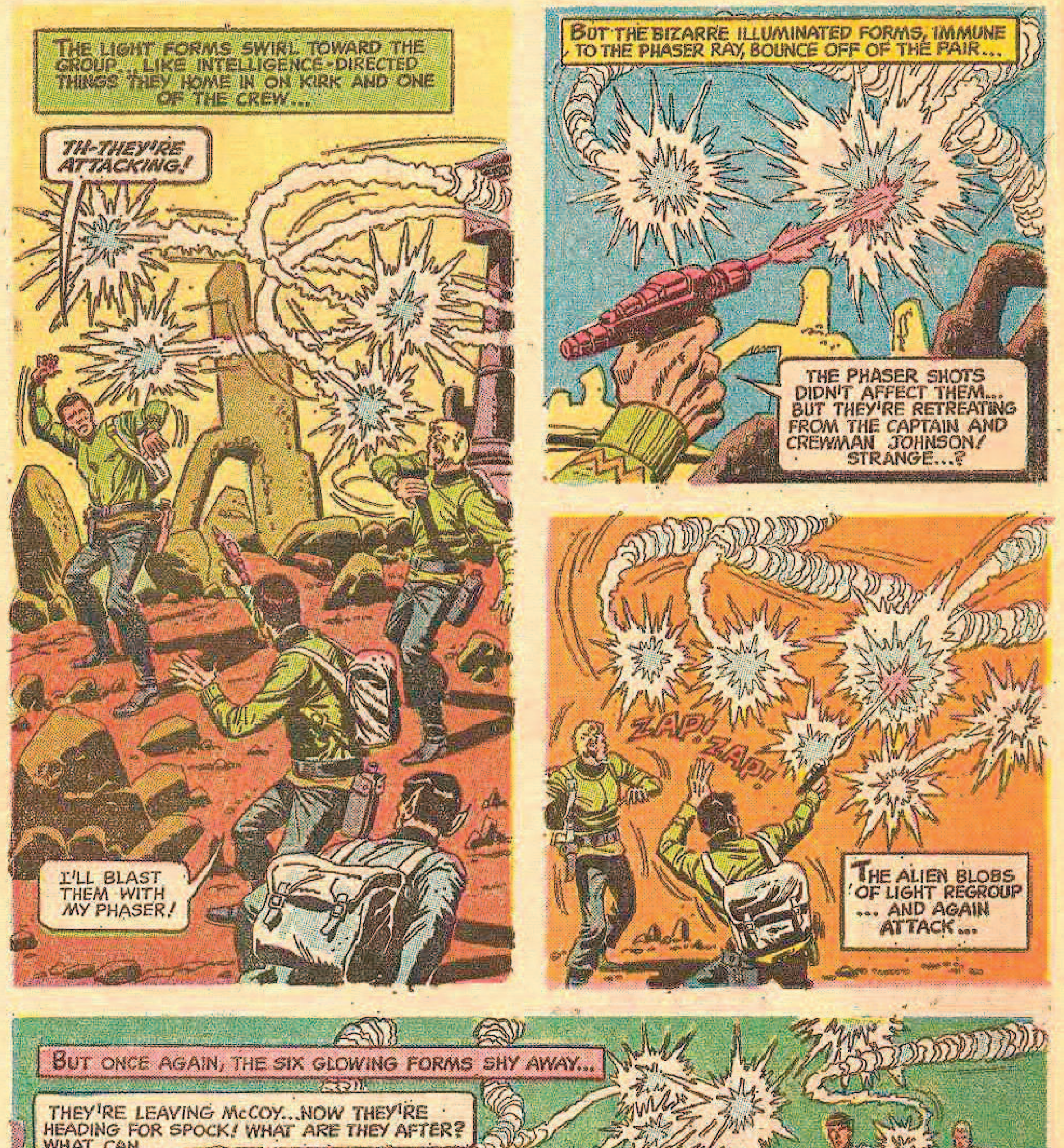

CAPTAIN'S LOG, STAR DATE, 21:06.7-- THE ENTERPRISE WAS CRUISING THROUGH GALAXY TELPHA Z... EXPEDITION OPERATIONS WERE NORMAL... UNTIL MR. SPOCK'S RED ALERT BUTTON FLASHED IN MAIN CONTROL...
MR. SPOCK MUST HAVE FOUND SOME ACTION ON HIS PLANET. SURVEILLANCE PANEL! LET'S TAKE A LOOK-SEE!
WHAT'S UP, SPOCK? THAT LITTLE PLANET SEEMS TO BE A-OKAY I SEE NOTHING UNUSUAL!
KEEP YOUR EYES ON THOSE NEEDLES! THAT PLANET IS CHANGING ITS CHEMISTRY EVERY FIVE OR TEN MINUTES!
300,000 MILES AWAY, THE PLANET METAMORPHA CONVULSES IN SPACE AS CAPTAIN KIRK, LEADER OF THE ENTERPRISE SPACE PIONEERS, SCOFFS AT MR. SPOCK'S STATEMENT...
OH, COME NOW, SPOCK! CHECK OUT YOUR INSTRUMENTS! THERE HAS TO BE A MAL-FUNCTION IN THE CONNECTIONS... SUCH THINGS JUST DON'T HAPPEN!
THEY ARE HAPPENING NOW, CAPTAIN KIRK! I'VE DOUBLE CHECKED EVERY PLANETARY SENSORY PICK-UP UNIT! WE'RE IN EXCELLENT WORKING CONDITION!

A SCANT SECOND LATER...
OBSERVE! SECTIONS OF THE PLANET HAVE JUST CHANGED FROM ORGANIC TO INORGANIC REACTIONS ON THE PLANETARY CHEMISTRY CHART!
METALLIC MATTER CHANGING TO FOLIAGE WITHIN AN INSTANT! FANTASTIC! APOLOGIES, MR. SPOCK!
...I GUESS SUCH THINGS DO HAPPEN!
THERE IS ANOTHER VITAL FACTOR INVOLVED IN THE PHENOMENON, CAPTAIN! I HAVE DISCOVERED TRACES OF TIANTIANIUM AMID THE METALLIC RECORDINGS!
TIANTIANIUM... AN OUNCE OF WHICH CAN PROPEL A SPACESHIP FOR A YEAR...THE MOST PRECIOUS METAL IN ALL THE GALAXIES!
ROCKET POWER ON FULL! LET'S SAIL IN CLOSE AND GIVE THAT PALPITATING PLANET A TELESCOPIC ONCE-OVER!
SHORTLY, THE SIGHT SEEN THROUGH THE POWERFUL ENTERPRISE SCOPES IS AWESOME...
CASCADES OF WATER SUDDENLY BURSTING UP IN THE NORTH QUADRANT!
AND IN THE SOUTH... A FOREST SPROUTING UP FROM DESERT SAND!

LET'S MOVE! WE'LL TELEPORT DOWN THERE WITH TWO CREW MEMBERS AND LET SCOTTY HANDLE THE SHIP UPSTAIRS HERE!
DANGEROUS AS IT IS, THE PRESENCE OF THAT 71, METAL MAKES THE RISK WORTH TAKING!
SHORTLY, AS BEAMS ILLUMINATE THE TELEPORTATION CHAMBER...
THE UPHEAVALS ARE EXTENSIVE OVER THE ENTIRE PLANET, CAPTAIN —BUT THERE ARE PLENTY OF EMPTY AREAS WE MIGHT BE SAFE IN!
EXACTLY MY REASONING FOR THE MISSION, MR. SPOCK!
THE RAYS OF LIGHT GROW STRONGER ...GRADUALLY, THE BODIES BEGIN TO DISSOLVE...BLEND INTO THE ETHER OF TIME...
AND A SPLIT SECOND LATER, THE FIGURES MATERIALIZE ON THE PLANET METAMORPHA.. THE FANTASTIC, EVER-CHANGING WORLD IN DEEP SPACE...
OUR CALCULATIONS WERE APPARENTLY CORRECT! WE ARE IN A CALM AREA!
BUT SCARCELY ARE THE WORDS OUT OF MR. SPOCK'S MOUTH WHEN...
GR-GREAT GALLOPING GALAXIES-- LOOK!
SPECULATION ON TOUCHDOWN POINT INCORRECT--WE HAVE BECOME A CRITICAL AREA!

THE LIGHT FORMS SWIRL TOWARD THE GROUP... LIKE INTELLIGENCE-DIRECTED THINGS THEY HOME IN ON KIRK AND ONE OF THE CREW...
TH-THEY'RE ATTACKING!
I'LL BLAST THEM WITH MY PHASER!
BUT THE BIZARRE ILLUMINATED FORMS, IMMUNE TO THE PHASER RAY, BOUNCE OFF OF THE PAIR...
THE PHASER SHOTS DIDN'T AFFECT THEM... BUT THEY'RE RETREATING FROM THE CAPTAIN AND CREWMAN JOHNSON! STRANGE...?
ZAP! ZAP!
THE ALIEN BLOBS OF LIGHT REGROUP ... AND AGAIN ATTACK...
BUT ONCE AGAIN, THE SIX GLOWING FORMS SHY AWAY...
THEY'RE LEAVING McCOY...NOW THEY'RE HEADING FOR SPOCK! WHAT ARE THEY AFTER? WHAT CAN THEY WANT?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LIKE A CLUSTER OF GLOWING, BODYLESS INSECTS, THE FORMS DESCEND UPON MR. SPOCK... ROUND AND ROUND THEY SWIRL...
...BUT I SEEM TO BE FRIGHTENING THEM OFF!
TH-THERE IS NO BODY TO THEM...
THEN...
THEY'RE GONE!
VANISHED! APPARENTLY DISSIPATED INTO THE ALIEN ATMOSPHERE!
(WHEW!) WELL, THAT'S THAT! NOW LET'S GET ON WITH LOCATING THAT TI ORE AND SHOVE OFF BEFORE THIS PLANET DOES ANOTHER FLIP-FLOP!
FOR AN HOUR, THE GROUP COVERS THE TERRAIN WITH DELICATE SPACE-ORE COUNTERS...
COME ON, MR. SPOCK--GIVE US A HAND! WE WANT TO GET THIS JOB OVER FAST!
I AM MAKING AN ANALYSIS OF THE EARTH CHEMISTRY, CAPTAIN KIRK!

SUDDENLY, AS THE DESPERATE SEARCH FOR THE RARE ORE CONTINUES...
AN-ANOTHER PLANETARY UPHEAVAL! BRACE YOURSELVES, MEN! THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT'S COMING NOW!
THEN, A GEYSER OF WATER SPEWS INTO THE AIR...
WATER! THE ARID AREA IS TURNING INTO WATER!
MAKE FOR THE CLIFFSIDE WITH SPOCK! MOVE IT!
BUT THE ONRUSH OF WATER IS TOO RAPID... SWIRLING RAPIDS ENTRAP THE GROUP...
S-SWIM!.. FIGHT THE CURRENT... WE'VE GOT TO REACH THE LEDGE!
REMAIN CALM, MY FRIENDS! YOU WILL BE SAVED!

CAPTAIN KIRK--- CLUTCH THE ROPE! INSTRUCT THE OTHERS TO MAKE A LIFE-CHAIN OF THEIR BODIES BY CLUTCHING YOURS!
G-GOOD THINKING! YOU HEARD HIM, MEN! GRAB HOLD OF ME!
THE LIFE-CHAIN IS FORMED...
HOLD ON TIGHT! I WILL PULL YOU FROM THE WATERS!
GREAT COMETS! WH-WHERE IS SPOCK GETTING THE STRENGTH? H-HE'S PULLING US ALL UP!
FINALLY, ATOP THE LEDGE...
HOW IN THUNDER DID YOU MANAGE IT, MR. SPOCK?--TOGETHER WE WEIGHED NEARLY EIGHT HUNDRED POUNDS!
EMERGENCY MEASURES OFTEN GIVE ONE EXTRA STRENGTH, CAPTAIN KIRK-- THE ADRENALIN WAS POURING THROUGH MY BODY RAPIDLY!
BUT THERE IS NO TIME FOR IDLE TALK! I HAVE CALCULATED A MEANS TO EXTRACT THE 71 ORE...BUT FIRST WE MUST REGULATE THE PLANET--BRING IT BACK TO NORMAL!
BRING IT BACK TO NORMAL?

PRECISELY! I HAVE WORKED OUT A THEORY THAT WILL SUCCEED! THESE ARE THE MATERIALS I WILL NEED TELEPORTED DOWN FROM THE ENTERPRISE!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH SPOCK... HE ACTED DAZED ...ALMOST AS IF HE WERE MOVING MECHANICALLY!
BUT PERHAPS IT'S JUST BECAUSE HE'S CONCENTRATING SO INTENSELY ON OUR PROBLEM!
ALL RIGHT! SHOOT, MR. SPOCK!
ONE ATOMIC ROCKET... FOUR STEEL GIRDERS...
AND WHEN THE MATERIALS HAVE BEEN TELEPORTED DOWN...
DR. McCOY! DO YOU UNDERSTAND ALL THIS? DOES MR. SPOCK REALLY KNOW WHAT HE'S DOING?
HE ALWAYS HAS BEFORE, JOHNSON! BUT... I ADMIT HE'S GOT ME A BIT PUZZLED THIS TIME!
MR. SPOCK! JUST WHAT IS THIS BLUEPRINT YOU ARE DRAFTING?
DO NOT DISTURB ME, CAPTAIN!
HAVE THE MEN TRANSPORT THE ROCKET, LUMBER AND PIPING TO THE VOLCANO CRATER TWO MILES SOUTH!
HOLD UP, SPOCK!

JUST HOW DO YOU KNOW THERE IS A VOLCANIC CRATER BACK THERE?
I KNOW IT IS THERE! DO NOT ASK ME ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS IF YOU WISH TO GET THE TI ORE... AND SURVIVE! I WILL JOIN YOU SHORTLY!
PERPLEXED, CAPTAIN KIRK FOLLOWS SPOCK'S DIRECTIONS...
TRANSPORT THE EQUIPMENT DUE SOUTH, MEN!
AS HIS SUPERIOR, I COULD STEP ON SPOCK...BUT PERHAPS HIS VULCAN BACKGROUND HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THIS!
PERHAPS THIS MAD LITTLE PLANET IS SOMEHOW SIMILAR TO HIS HOME PLANET... IT MAY HAVE SECRETS HE KNOWS ABOUT! I'LL GO ALONG WITH HIM FOR A WHILE!
BUT THE CONFUSED CAPTAIN CAN NOT KNOW THE TERROR THAT IS SEEPING THROUGH MR. SPOCK'S BODY AT THIS VERY MOMENT...
THAT IS CORRECT, MR. SPOCK! THE SLING MUST BE PERFECTLY PLACED IN THE VOLCANO CRATER...
MMMMMMMMM
MMMMM
FOR IT IS THE ALIEN LIGHT FORMS THEMSELVES WHO ARE COMMANDING SPOCK'S MIND...
...UNLESS YOUR ATOMIC ROCKET PENETRATES THE MOLTEN CORE OF OUR PLANET PERFECTLY, THE RESULTS WILL BE NIL!
HOW? WHEN DID THIS ALL HAPPEN TO YOUR PLANET?

THE THOUGHT WAVES OF THE SIX LIGHT FORMS FILL SPOCK'S BRAIN...REVEALING THEIR SECRETS TO HIM...
IT OCCURRED MANY SUN CENTURIES AGO! A GIANT METEORITE PIERCED OUR PLANET IN ITS ONE WEAK AREA...WHERE THE STRUCTURE WAS THIN...
IT WENT THROUGH OUR CRUST, MANTLE, OUTER CORE AND INTO THE MOLTEN MASS OF OUR INNER CORE!
THE MOLECULES OF THE CORE'S MASS WERE CHANGED BY THE CHEMICALS OF THE METEORITE!
"AS THE CHEMICAL REACTION REACHED THE SURFACE THESE TERRIBLE CHANGES BEGAN TO OCCUR...AND OUR BODIES BEGAN TO VAPORIZE..."
OUR PLANET IS DOOMED ...TREES SPROUTING UP AMID OUR WATERS WITHIN MINUTES...MOUNTAINS RISING AND FALLING!
AND NOW WE OURSELVES ARE VAPORIZING FROM THE POWER OF THAT ACCURSED METEORITE!
WE NEEDED PHYSICAL FORM TO UNDO THE DAMAGE DONE...AND YOUR VULCAN BODY WAS THE ONLY ONE WE COULD ENTER DUE TO ITS CHEMICAL MAKE-UP!
I UNDERSTAND..!

THE EVOLUTIONARY PROCESSES OF YOUR PLANET WERE SPEEDED UP TRILLIONS OF TIMES OVER! BUT, SHOULD WE CORRECT THE PROBLEM, WILL YOU REVERT TO YOUR NORMAL SELVES?
YES!
SPOCK--TALKING TO HIMSELF! WHAT IN THUNDER! WONDER IF HE'S GOT SPACE FATIGUE!
SPOCK!
BUT AS CAPTAIN KIRK SPEAKS, SPOCK HOLDS UP HIS HAND...
SILENCE... PLEASE, CAPTAIN!
THE CHEMICALS YOU NEED FOR THE ROCKET WE MANAGED TO PUT TOGETHER BEFORE WE TOTALLY VANISHED INTO LIGHT FORMS! THEY ARE HIDDEN AT THIS LOCATION...
WHAT THE DEVIL IS GOING ON, SPOCK? THIS AIR OF MYSTERY YOU'RE PUTTING ON IS GETTING ON MY NERVES! EVERYTHING IS READY AT THE CRATER!
IT IS ALL RIGHT! I...WAS JUST MAKING A CALCULATION! LET US GO TO THE PENETRATION SITE!
MY ENGINEERING PLANS ARE COMPLETE! I HAVE BUT ONE MORE DETAIL TO COVER!

AND WHEN THE VOLCANIC CRATER IS REACHED...
JOIN THE MEN, PLEASE! I WILL BE WITH YOU IN MOMENTS!
TO YOUR LEFT SLIGHTLY, MR. SPOCK!
THERE IS THE CHEMICAL CONTAINER! IT WILL NEUTRALIZE THE METEORITE MATTER THAT CONTAMINATED OUR MOLTEN INNER CORE! PLACE IT IN YOUR ATOMIC ROCKET!
SPOCK RETURNS TO THE ROCKET SITE... THE CHEMICALS ARE PLACED IN THE ROCKET'S HEAD...
THOSE CHEMICALS! WHERE DID YOU GET THEM, SPOCK?
I HAD THEM IN AN EMERGENCY KIT! COME! PREPARE TO HOIST THE ROCKET OUT INTO THE EXACT CENTER OF THE VOLCANIC CRATER BEFORE BLASTING IT DOWNWARD!
BUT SUDDENLY AS THE ROCKET IS PLAYED OUT ON THE PULLEY...
GR-GREAT FIRES OF SATURN! I-IT'S HAPPENING AGAIN...THE PLANETARY METAMORPHOSIS IS HITTING US HERE!

STAR TREK
THE PERIL OF PLANET QUICK CHANGE
PART II – THE SINISTER GUEST
PREPARING TO BLAST A CHEMICALLY-FILLED ATOMIC ROCKET INTO THE MOLTEN CORE OF THE EVER CHANGING PLANET METAMORPHA, THE LAUNCHING POINT ON A VOLCANIC CRATER SUDDENLY, CONVULSES, STAGGERING THE ENTERPRISE CREW...
W-WE'VE HAD IT, SPOCK! WHATEVER YOUR THEORY WAS OF STILLING THIS NIGHTMARISH PLANET IS GONE WITH THE ALIEN WIND...
...I-IF WE GET OUT OF THIS WITH OUR NECKS I'M ORDERING AN IMMEDIATE TELEPORTATION BACK TO SHIP!
PLEASE... BE CALM, CAPTAIN KIRK!

THEN... A TELEPATHIC VOICE RESOUNDS IN SPOCK'S BRAIN...
STAND UP AND TELL YOUR PEOPLE TO FOLLOW YOU! HURRY, MR. SPOCK!
VERY WELL!
CAPTAIN...MEN! FOLLOW ME! QUICKLY!

AND AS SPOCK LEADS THE CREW AROUND A TURN IN THE CRATER WALL...
WE WILL BE SAFE IN HERE, GENTLEMEN!
WHAT KIND OF A GALAXY GAMBIT HAS SPOCK GOT? HE SEEMS TO KNOW THIS PLANET LIKE THE BACK OF HIS VULCAN HAND!
MOMENTS LATER...
THE UPHEAVALS HAVE SUBSIDED! WE CAN CONTINUE PROJECT PLANET STILL!
QUICKLY, THE INSCRUTABLE VULCAN MAKES A CALCULATION...
THE DISTURBANCE HAS MOVED THE OPENING OF THE VOLCANIC PIT!! WE MUST REALIGN FOR ROCKET ENTRY!
NOW HE'S GOT A CODE NAME FOR THE OPERATION!!
WITHDRAW THE ROCKET ON ITS LINE... TWO FEET, FOUR INCHES...
ROGER, MR. SPOCK!
SPOCK MOVES TO THE CONTROL PANEL... HIS FINGER REACHES OUT TO PRESS THE BUTTON THAT MEANS LIFE OR DEATH FOR THE PLANET METAMORPHA...

THE ATOMIC ROCKET SLAMS DOWNWARD...THROUGH THE OPENING IN THE VOLCANIC PIT! THEN...DEEP INTO THE PLANET'S HEART THE DIAMOND-TIPPED NOSE OF THE MISSILE DRILLS ITS WAY...
BRRRRRR!
DOWN...DOWN IT PLUMMETS INTO THE CONTAMINATED MOLTEN MASS OF THE INNER CORE...
KA-FUOOM!
ALIEN CHEMICALS FROM THE ROCKET ARE HURLED INTO THE FIERY, POLLUTED LIQUID...
THEN, THROUGH THE HOLE BORED BY THE ROCKET AN EERIE, MIST-LIKE MIXTURE ARISES...

UP ABOVE, THE CHEMICAL SPRAY GEYSERS GUSHES OUT...
GREAT RINGS OF SATURN! W-WE'VE HIT SOMETHING DOWN THERE!
WE HAVE SUCCEEDED, CAPTAIN KIRK--WE HAVE PUNCTURED THE DEADLY HEART OF PLANET METAMORPHA!
LIKE SOME GIGANTIC CLOUD, THE CHEMICAL-FILLED MIST REGENERATES ITSELF AGAIN AND AGAIN... IT MUSHROOMS...
THE WONDER HAS COME TO BE, MR. SPOCK! WITHIN ONE SOLAR DAY OUR MEDICAL MIST WILL HAVE RETURNED OUR WORLD TO NORMAL! WE THANK YOU!
SUDDENLY, THE CREW OF THE ENTERPRISE GAPE AT MR. SPOCK WIDE-EYED...
GR-GREAT GLORY TO BE! TH-THE LIGHT FORMS ...THEY'RE SWIRLING OUT OF MR. SPOCK'S HEAD!
AND THEY'RE MATERIALIZING INTO SOME KIND OF ALIEN CREATURES!
SPOCK! WHAT'S HAPPENED..? WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO YOU?
AWESTRUCK, THE SPACE PIONEERS WATCH AS SECOND BY SECOND, THE INCREDIBLE OCCURS...
YOUR BRILLIANT VULCAN COLLEAGUE WAS OUR HOST, CAPTAIN KIRK! THROUGH HIS BODY WE WERE ABLE TO SAVE OUR WORLD!
AND NOW WE SHALL MAKE REPAYMENT BY GIVING YOU THE VITAL ORE YOU SEEK! MY NAME IS ZARMAN!

THEN AS THE ALIEN SPEAKS, A FANTASTIC SIGHT CAPTURES THE GROUP...
ZARMAN! LOOK THERE, BEHIND YOU!
AH, YES...
...IT IS OUR TOWN OF HIDENNA! AS WE WERE VAPORIZED BY THE POISONED METEORITE, SO IT WAS, TOO! AND NOW AS OUR CHEMICAL ANTIDOTE MIST HAS MATERIALIZED US, HIDENNA ALSO IS RETURNING!
EVEN THE FAMED SPACE PIONEERS ARE DAZED WITH WONDER AT THE REBIRTH OF A TOWN FROM NOTHINGNESS...
THIS WAS MY HOME... AND THE HOME OF MY FRIENDS! ALL OVER OUR PLANET, ONE BY ONE, OTHER TOWNS ARE ALSO RISING!
FANTASTIC, ZARMAN! BUT MR. SPOCK SAID WE HAD AN AGREEMENT IF WE SUCCEEDED IN HELPING YOU!
YES! THE TIANTIANIUM ORE MR. SPOCK'S MIND REVEALED TO US WAS SO VITAL TO YOUR GALAXY! I WILL SHOW YOU THE NEAREST DEPOSIT! COME!

BUT AS ZARMAN LEADS THEM TO A NEARBY AREA...
DIG THERE! BUT PLEASE...EXTRACT BUT TWO HUNDRED GALAXY POUNDS OF THE ORE! WE NEED MUCH OF IT HERE ON METAMORPHA TO KEEP OUR PLANET VITALIZED!
YES...YES! THAT WILL BE SUFFICIENT!
MR. SPOCK! GIVE US A HAND!
NO... I-I CAN NOT, CAPTAIN... I... AM TOO WEAKENED FROM MY ORDEAL!
CERTAINLY! I UNDERSTAND! REST YOURSELF, SPOCK!
MY HEAD... SOMETHING IS NOT CORRECT... MY MIND IS STILL NOT ... CLEAR... CONCISE IN THOUGHT!
SUDDENLY, A FRIGHTENING THOUGHT ENLIGHTENS SPOCK'S CLOUDY EYES...
WAIT! SIX LIGHT FORMS ENTERED MY BODY...YES...YES, SIX ENTERED... BUT ONLY FIVE LEFT!
THAT IS TRUE, MR. SPOCK!
I AM STILL WITHIN YOUR BODY...
... YOUR MIND...
...YES, WITHIN YOUR VERY SOUL, MR. SPOCK!
BUT WHY... WHY? WHO ARE YOU? WHY DO YOU BETRAY US SO?

I DO NOT BETRAY YOU, SIR! I MERELY SEEK ESCAPE, ADVENTURE... KNOWLEDGE OF THE OTHER WORLDS, THE MANY GALAXIES YOU HAVE KNOWN AND TRAVELED THROUGH! MY NAME... IT IS *TEXTRA!*
NO...NO!
THROUGH *YOUR* EYES, *YOUR* BODY, I WILL ROAM THE DEEP REACHES OF SPACE WITH YOU... SEE WONDERS MY FOOL PEOPLES HAVE NEVER DARED DREAM OF!
IT...SHALL NOT BE, TEXTRA!
NOTHING! NO ONE SHALL POSSESS ME! I...I SHALL DRIVE YOU FROM MY BEING LIKE SOME LOATHSOME PLAGUE!
IT IS HOPELESS, MR. SPOCK! WE ARE INTERTWINED... *FOREVER!*
CITIZEN LOOK! THE ALIEN IS CRAZED! PERHAPS THE ATMOSPHERE HERE HAS STUNNED HIS MIND!

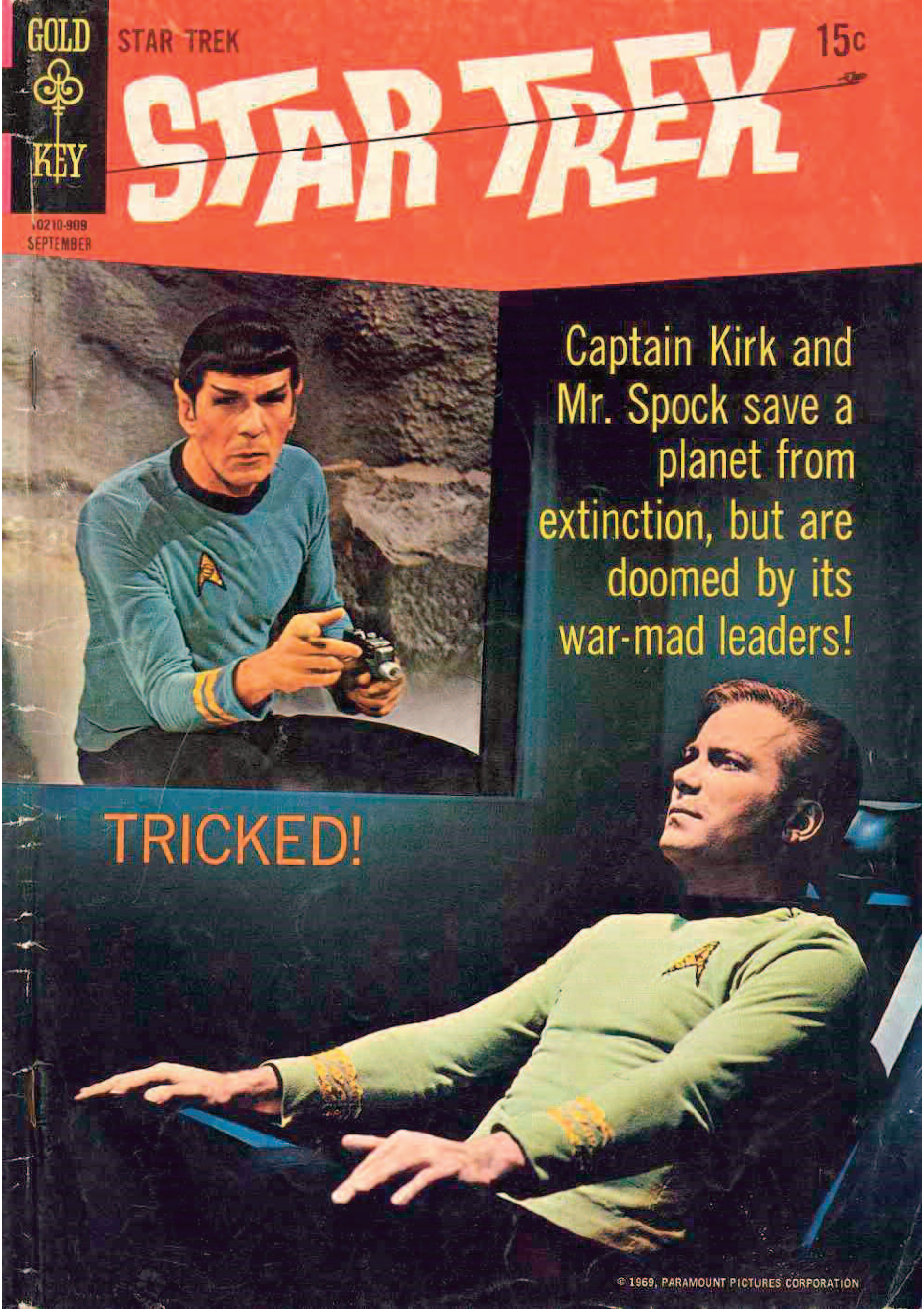
WHILE AT THE ORE SITE...
THAT DOES IT...TWO HUNDRED GALAXY POUNDS! THANK YOU, ZARMAN!
ALL RIGHT, MEN... LET'S GO!
SAY! WHERE IN BLUE THUNDER IS MR. SPOCK?
THERE HE IS, CAPTAIN! HE MUST HAVE BEEN INVESTIGATING THE MATERIALIZED TOWN!
AND AS THEY JOIN THE VULCAN GENIUS, HIS LIPS FRAME WORDS... HIS MIND TRIES TO REVEAL SOMETHING TO CAPTAIN KIRK...
CA-CAPTAIN! THERE IS GREAT DANGER... Y-YOU MUST LISTEN TO ME..!
YES! WHAT IS IT, SPOCK?
BUT THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT FORM WITHIN HIM IS TOO GREAT...
I AM STRONGER THAN YOU, SPOCK! YOU CANNOT REVEAL MY PRESENCE WITHIN YOU! YOU CAN NOT!
CA-CAPTAIN... I...I...A...A POWER...S-SOMETHING WRONG..!
BONES! RADIO SCOTTY TO BEAM US ABOARD FAST... SPOCK'S IN SHOCK! THE REACTION OF THE ALIEN LIGHT CREATURES WITHIN HIM, NO DOUBT!
WE REGRET UPSETTING YOUR FRIEND, CAPTAIN!

AND AS THE CREW BEGINS TO DEMATERIALIZE...
THOSE ARE THE RISKS OF OUR SPACE RESEARCH! A DAY IN THE SHIP'S HOSPITAL WILL FIX HIM UP! GOODBYE, ZARMAN!
YOU SEE... I HAVE WON, MR. SPOCK! WE GO TOGETHER!
AND MOMENTS LATER, AS THEIR BODIES TAKE FORM ... THE TELEPORTATION CHAMBER OF THE ENTERPRISE...
MUST DO SOMETHING... SOMETHING!
AS THEY STEP FROM THE CHAMBER, SPOCK DESPERATELY CLUTCHES KIRK'S SHOULDER... FIGHTING AGAINST THE ALIEN MENTAL FORCE WITHIN HIM...
WHAT IS IT, SPOCK?
COME...WITH ME..!
LIKE A MAN SEIZED WITH AN ELECTRICAL CHARGE, SPOCK'S SHAKING HAND CLUTCHES A PEN...
PERHAPS... I CAN... WRITE... THE WARNING...
YOU CAN NOT, SPOCK! MY WILL IS EQUAL TO YOURS!
POOR DEVIL! HE'S TRYING TO WRITE ME SOMETHING!
THEN, AS THE ALIEN MENTAL POWER BLOCKS OFF SPOCK'S MENTAL PROCESSES...
CAPTAIN! THIS MAN CAN'T EVEN HOLD A PEN! I'M TAKING OVER... HE'S GOING DOWN TO SICK BAY AT ONCE!
SWISH!

LISTEN... INSIDE OF ME... SOMETHING!
QUIET, SPOCK!
STEADY, OLD FRIEND... EASY DOES IT!
THEN...
THIS WILL CALM YOU DOWN, OLD FELLER!
BUT IT WILL NOT HELP TO RID YOURSELF OF ME, MR. SPOCK! NO INDEED!
THEN IN SICK BAY, SPOCK IS LEFT ALONE TO BATTLE HIS POWERFUL VULCAN MIND AGAINST THAT OF THE ALIEN PARASITE WITHIN HIM...
TH-THERE MUST BE A WAY... SOME MEANS TO SPEW YOU FROM ME!
THERE IS NO WAY MR. SPOCK! ACCEPT YOUR FATE... AND ENJOY YOUR TRAVELS THROUGH SPACE WITH ME!
SUDDENLY, SPOCK'S WHIRLING MIND SEIZES UPON A THOUGHT...
WHAT ARE YOU THINKING OF, SPOCK?
YES... YES, IT CAN BE DONE!
HIS MIND TORN BETWEEN TWO FORCES, HE STAGGERS FROM SICK BAY...
MU-MUSTN'T THINK... CAN'T LET TEXTRA KNOW..!
LET TEXTRA KNOW WHAT, VULCAN?
SAY, NOW, MR. SPOCK...

YOU'RE AN ILL MAN, YOU ARE, SIR! BEST YOU LET ME HELP YOU BACK TO SICK BAY!
OOOF!
YOU MUST LET ME GO!
DESPERATELY RESISTING THE FORCE WITHIN HIM, SPOCK STAGGERS LIKE A MAN WITH INVISIVIBLE CHAINS DOWN THE CORRIDOR...
JUST KEEP MYSELF MOVING... MOVING...
SPOCK! YOU ARE HEADING FOR THE TELEPORTATION CHAMBER! WHY? THINK! THINK OF WHAT YOU PLAN SO THAT I CAN KNOW!
WITHIN THE CHAMBER, THE VULCAN LOCKS THE DOOR AND...
WHA..? SPOCK HAS GONE INTO THE TELEPORTA-TION CHAMBER!
GREAT SATELLITES! HE MUST BE GOING TO TELE-PORT HIMSELF BACK TO METAMORPHA!
H-HE'S ACTIVATED THE TELEPORTATION LIGHTS! B-BUT LOOK—HE'S ALSO THROWN OPEN THE RETURN TELEPORTATION SWITCH!
JIM, HE'LL BE SUBJECTED TO OPPOSING FORCES! THEY'LL TEAR HIS MOLECULAR STRUCTURE APART!

WITH ONE TELEPORTATION FORCE SEEKING TO DIMINISH HIM, THE OTHER TO MATERIALIZE HIM, SPOCK'S BODY WRITHES BETWEEN GREAT FORCES...
MY...BODY IS CAUGHT IN A NEUTRAL ZONE...
...BUT YOU HAVE NO BODY, TEXTRA...
STOP! M-MY SPIRIT FORM IS BEING TORN LOOSE!
ABRUPTLY, A LIGHT FORM IS RIPPED BY THE FORCES FROM SPOCK'S BODY...
AN-ANOTHER LIGHT FORM ...IT WAS STILL WITHIN HIM! IT'S MATERIALIZING!
SPOCK'S COLLAPSED!
AND THE ALIEN... HE'S VAPORIZING! TURN OFF THE MACHINE, CAPTAIN, QUICKLY!
AND WHEN SPOCK HAS BEEN REVIVED TO TELL HIS STORY...
(WHEW!) SO THAT TEXTRA WAS PLANNING TO USE YOU AS A HOST FOREVER!
YES, CAPTAIN! I'M GLAD I THOUGHT OF NEUTRALIZING THE TELEPORTATION MACHINE! IT MADE MY BODY SO UNSTABLE THERE WAS NOTHING FOR TEXTRA TO HANG ONTO!
I ALWAYS KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING UNSTABLE ABOUT YOU VULCANS!
DR. McCOY, IT SEEMS TO ME YOU EARTHMEN CAN ACHIEVE INSTABILITY EVEN WITHOUT A MACHINE!


GOLD KEY
STAR TREK
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SEPTEMBER
Captain Kirk and Mr. Spock save a planet from extinction, but are doomed by its war-mad leaders!
TRICKED!
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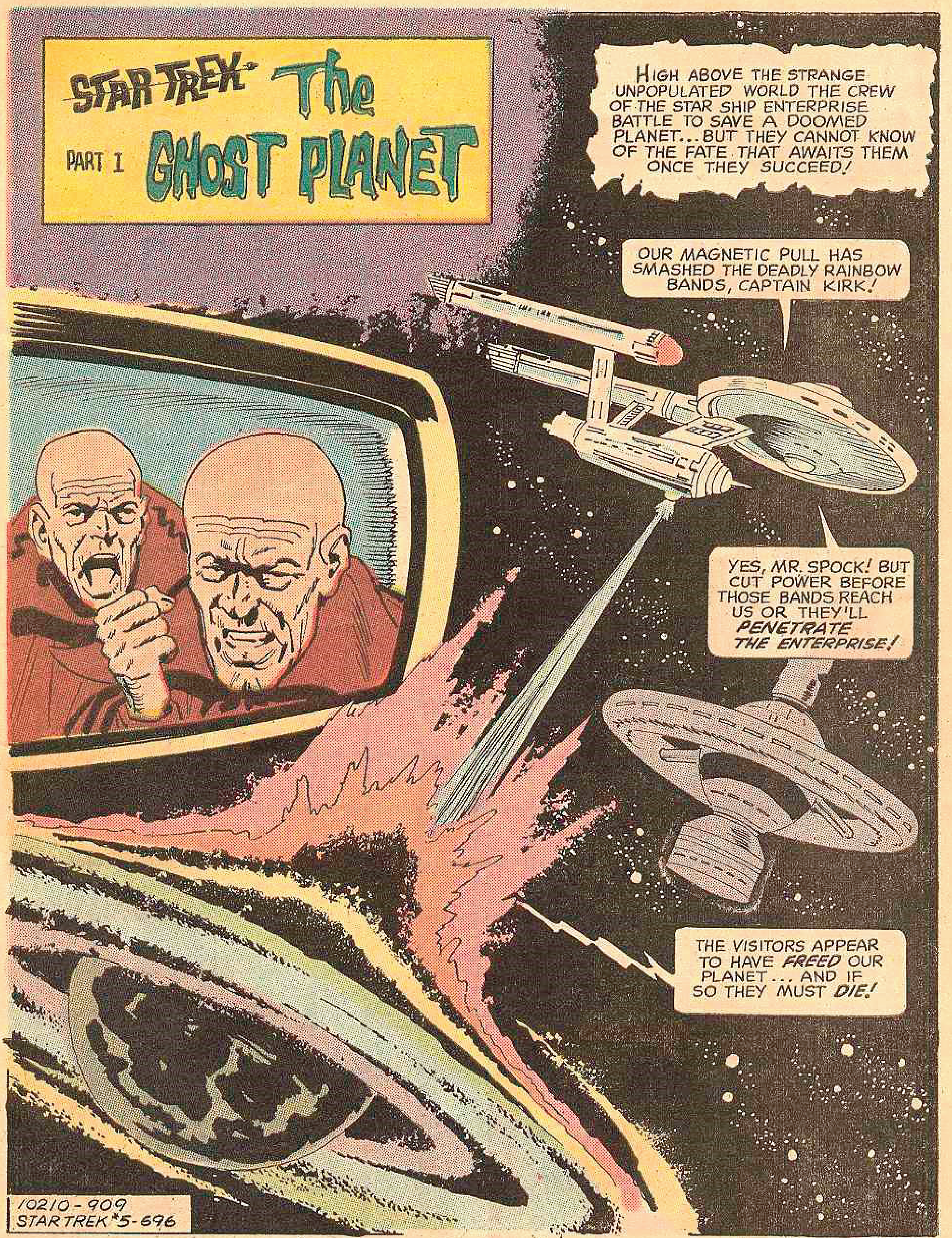

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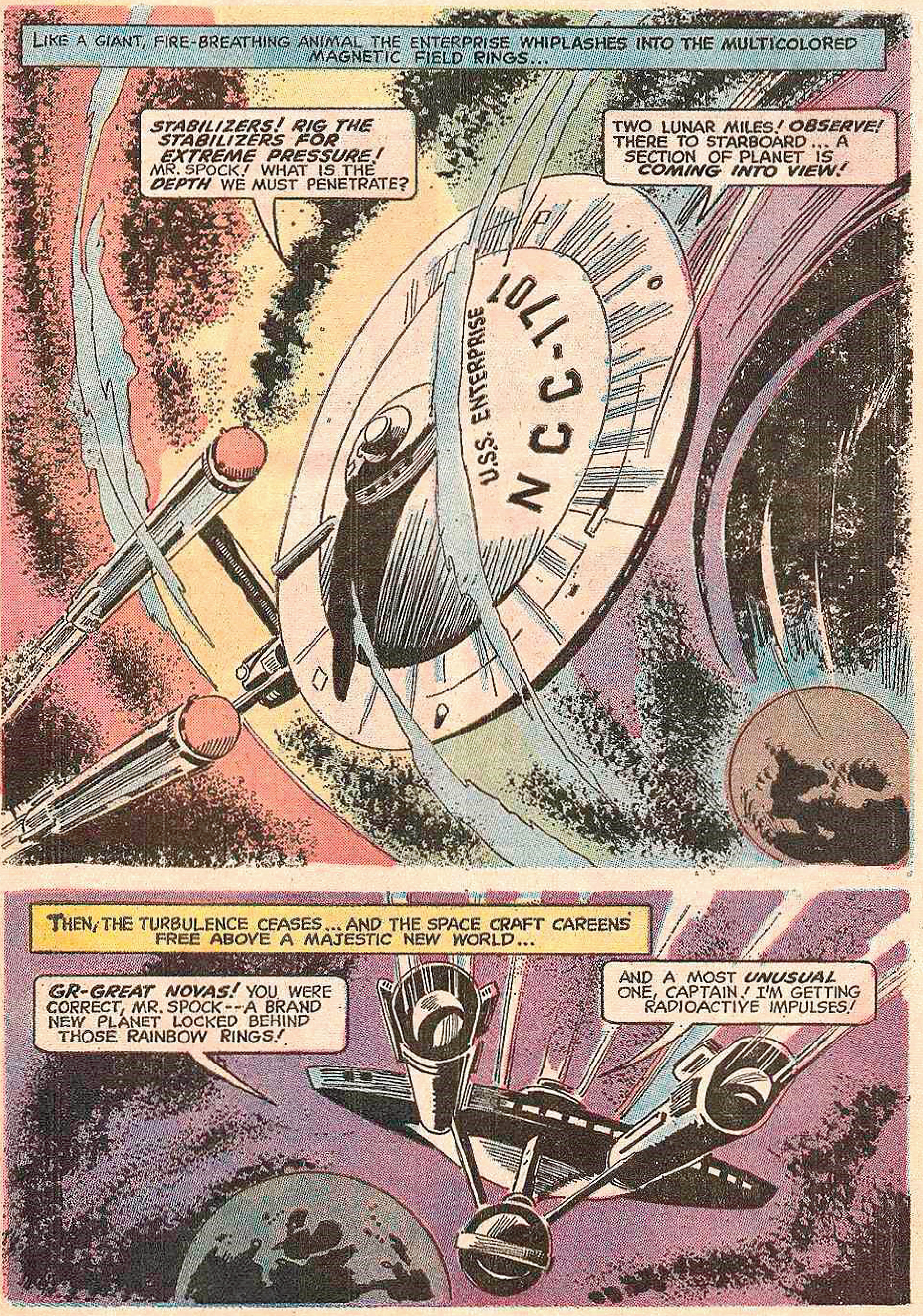
CAPTAIN'S LOG, STAR DATE 26:06.4-- ENTERPRISE MOVING DEEP INTO GALAXY ZELTA... WE HAVE SIGHTED A STRANGE RINGED AREA... IT MAY CONCEAL A PLANET ...INVESTIGATION UNDER WAY...
WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT, MR. SPOCK? THEY'RE SIMILAR TO THE RINGS OF SATURN -- BUT NO PLANET IS INDICATED!
I'M CHECKING THEM ON THE SPECTROSCOPE NOW, CAPTAIN KIRK!
THE RINGS ARE COMPOSED OF A COPPER CONTENT, CAPTAIN! THEY ARE CIRCULATING AROUND A... PLANET!
ARE YOU CERTAIN, MR. SPOCK?
AFFIRMATIVE, THE EVIDENCE ON THE SPECTROSCOPE IS UNASSAILABLE!
A PLANET WRAPPED IN RAINBOW RINGS!
ROCKETS ON FULL! SAME COURSE!
NEARING THE SPEED OF LIGHT, THE QUEEN SHIP OF THE STAR FLEET PLUMMETS TOWARD THE UNKNOWN PLANET...
THE COPPER CONTENT...IS IT DANGEROUS TO US?
NO! THERE IS A MINOR MAGNETIC FIELD BUT WE HAVE THE THRUST TO OVERCOME IT!
HOWEVER, THERE WILL BE TURBULENCE!
SECURE SEAT BELTS!



LIKE A GIANT, FIRE-BREATHING ANIMAL THE ENTERPRISE WHIPLASHES INTO THE MULTICOLORED MAGNETIC FIELD RINGS...
STABILIZERS! RIG THE STABILIZERS FOR EXTREME PRESSURE! MR. SPOCK! WHAT IS THE DEPTH WE MUST PENETRATE?
TWO LUNAR MILES! OBSERVE! THERE TO STARBOARD... A SECTION OF PLANET IS COMING INTO VIEW!
U.S.S. ENTERPRISE
NCC-1701
THEN, THE TURBULENCE CEASES... AND THE SPACE CRAFT CAREENS FREE ABOVE A MAJESTIC NEW WORLD...
GR-GREAT NOVAS! YOU WERE CORRECT, MR. SPOCK--A BRAND NEW PLANET LOCKED BEHIND THOSE RAINBOW RINGS!
AND A MOST UNUSUAL ONE, CAPTAIN! I'M GETTING RADIOACTIVE IMPULSES!

RADIOACTIVITY! CAN YOU PINPOINT IT?
NO, IT IS VERY FAINT! BUT IT IS PRESENT!
TRIGGER TELESCOPIC VIEW CAMERA!
AN EMPTY CITY ... NOT A CITIZEN, VEHICLE OR MOVING THING! WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT, MR. SPOCK?
ONE CANNOT JUDGE SO QUICKLY! PERHAPS A GHOST TOWN!!
SHALL WE RECONNOITER THE AREA FOR A FEW HOURS, CAPTAIN?
NO...
...THAT WOULD JUST MAKE OUR PRESENCE POSITIVELY KNOWN... IF IT ISN'T ALREADY! WE'LL BEAM DOWN!
PICK TWO MEN FROM THE CREW AND COME WITH ME, MR. SPOCK! DR. McCOY, YOU KEEP CONTACT WITH US FROM HERE!
MOMENTS LATER, BEAMS IN THE TRANSPORT CHAMBER ILLUMINATE THE EXPLORATION TEAM ...

AND A MICRO-SECOND LATER, THE FOUR-MAN TEAM MATERIALIZES ON THE MYSTERIOUS GHOST PLANET...
SUDDENLY, A HOLLOW VOICE BOOMS OUT IN THE EMPTY SQUARE...
WELCOME, VISITORS! TRANSPORTATION IS ENROUTE FOR YOU!
WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT, MR. SPOCK? SOME TYPE OF MECHANIZED CIVILIZATION?
NEGATIVE, CAPTAIN! IF YOU NOTICE, THE AREA DOES NOT APPEAR LIVED IN!
...AND LOOK OVER THERE!
PART OF THE CITY IN RUINS! A HOLOCAUST! PERHAPS A CITY BURNED OUT!
I BELIEVE NOT! THERE ARE DEEP INDENTATIONS IN THE GROUND...
...SIMILAR TO THOSE MADE BY BOMBING DURING A WAR!
HERE'S OUR VEHICLE ...ROBOT CONTROLLED! KEEP YOUR PHASERS READIED, PEOPLE!

THIS IS EERIE, CAPTAIN! SHOULD WE GO THROUGH WITH IT?
WE'RE PREPARED! PEOPLE WITH A CIVILIZATION LIKE THIS CAN'T BE FOOLS--THEY MUST KNOW WE HAVE A SHIP HOVERING ABOVE THAT COULD DESTROY THEM AT ANY SIGN OF TREACHERY!
SHORTLY, THE VEHICLE SLOWS AND...
A ROBOT--MOTIONING US INSIDE!
THIS APPEARS TO BE THEIR CENTRAL COMMUNICATIONS BUILDING! CAPTAIN, OBSERVE THE MANY ANTENNAE...
PLEASE... TAKE YOUR... SEATS!
VERY DRAMATIC! AT LEAST THEY SPEAK THE INTERPLANETARY LANGUAGE ESPERANTA!
WE KNOW... YOU ARE... CONFUSED... IT WILL BE EXPLAINED... BUT YOU MUST... BELIEVE WE ARE FRIENDLY ... NOW THE GOVERNMENT HEADS WILL ADDRESS YOU!
ABRUPTLY, THE GIANT SCREEN GLISTENS... TWO MAMMOTH HEADS APPEAR...
PLEASE LET US INTRODUCE OURSELVES! WE ARE THE TWIN SUPREMES OF PLANET NUMERO UNO! I AM JUSTIN!
AND I AM JUSTIN! WE RULE TOGETHER!

AND I AM CAPTAIN KIRK OF THE STAR SHIP ENTERPRISE! OUR MISSION IS TO AID THOSE OF THE PLANETARY SYSTEM WHO MAY BE IN NEED!
BUT THE TREATMENT YOU OFFER IS INSULTING! EITHER IDENTIFY YOURSELVES PROPERLY OR WE WILL LEAVE!
PLEASE... I APOLOGIZE... WE APOLOGIZE! CAPTAIN KIRK--IF YOU WILL BE PATIENT AND HEAR OUR TERRIBLE STORY YOU WILL UNDERSTAND!
VERY WELL! SPEAK!
AND AS JUSTIN ONE SPEAKS, THE SCREEN ENLARGES...TO TAKE IN A TERRIFYING SIGHT...
IT WAS JUST A LUNAR SUN AGO THAT THE TERROR MOVED IN UPON OUR PLANET... THE TERRIBLE RAINBOW RINGS THAT WERE SOON TO THROTTLE AND DRIVE US FROM THE PLANET OF OUR ANCESTORS...

THE VERY SIGHT OF THE RINGS STRUCK TERROR INTO THE HEARTS OF MY PEOPLE...
AND AS THE DAYS PASSED, THE MENACE OF THE EERIE RINGS WAS TO BE KNOWN TO US ALL... PHYSICALLY!
FOR THE OMINOUS BANDS EMITTED A STRANGE COPPER RADIATION THAT AFFECTED OUR BODIES!
NO SUBSTANCE KNOWN CAN STOP THE RADIATION, JUSTIN 1! OUR ENTIRE POPULATION WILL PERISH!
BUT WE CANNOT STAND BY AND ALLOW OUR RACE TO BECOME EXTINCT! SOMETHING MUST BE DONE!
THE BUILDING OF TWO ARTIFICIAL SATELLITES WENT UNDER EMERGENCY CONSTRUCTION...
AND WITHIN A MONTH'S TIME, THE UNOITE EXODUS TO THE SATELLITES WAS UNDERWAY! IT WAS EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL...

SOON, AN OBVIOUS DANGER WAS UPON US --OVER-POPULATION! EVERY SQUARE INCH OF THE SATELLITES IS BEING UTILIZED...
OUR LAND CANNOT FEED THE MASSES! AND WE DO NOT HAVE THE MEANS TO CONSTRUCT OTHER SATELLITES...
...OR WEAPONS POWERFUL ENOUGH TO DESTROY THE DOOM RINGS! WE THOUGHT, PERHAPS, YOU MAY HAVE THE MEANS TO HELP US...
DESTROY THE RINGS? I-I DON'T KNOW--WHAT DO YOU THINK, MR. SPOCK?
LASER BEAMS WOULD MOST CERTAINLY SHATTER THE RINGS, CAPTAIN--BUT THE CONTAMINATED MATTER WOULD STILL ORBIT THE PLANET...
THE ONLY POSSIBLE SOLUTION WOULD BE TO MAGNETICALLY PULL THE RINGS AWAY FROM THE PLANET AND INTO DEEP SPACE...
BUT I AM NOT SURE OUR SPACECRAFT CAN DO THE JOB! I WILL NEED TIME FOR CALCULATIONS...
THEN BY ALL MEANS, TAKE THE TIME--WE WILL MAKE CONTACT AGAIN IN A LUNAR HOUR--AND GOOD LUCK!
MR. SPOCK--SOMETHING IS TROUBLING YOU!
CURIOSITY, CAPTAIN! WHY DID THE UNOITES BUILD TWO SEPARATE SATELLITES! AND THEN ...
CAPTAIN, SIR! THERE'S SOMETHING YOU SHOULD SEE IN THE NEXT ROOM!

JUST TWO ROBOT GUARDS--THEY'RE ALL OVER THE PLACE! THERE'S NOTHING UNUSUAL ABOUT THAT!
THAT'S WHAT WE THOUGHT, SIR--UNTIL WE TRIED TO ENTER THE ROOM! WATCH THIS...
ALL THE OTHER TIN MEN HAVE BEEN FRIENDLY! BUT WHEN WE MOVED TOWARDS THE DOOR LIKE THIS...
LOOK OUT! THEY'RE LUNGING FOR YOU...
Y-YIPES!
THEY'VE... SNARED HIM!
WE CAN'T RISK A SHOT AT THOSE ROBOTS-- WE MAY HIT OUR MAN!
AND THEY MAY KILL HIM INSTANTLY ...BEFORE WE CAN ACT!
HMM-M...I HAVE AN IDEA, CAPTAIN! LET ME HAVE YOUR COMMUNICATIONS TRANSISTOR...
DENTON! YOUR CANTEEN WATER... SPLASH IT AT THE FEET OF THE ROBOTS...
YES SIR, MR. SPOCK!

ENOUGH! AND NOW LET'S GIVE THESE ROBOTS A HOT-FOOT!
I GET IT--THE WATER WILL ACT AS A CONDUCTOR FOR THE HIGH FREQUENCY BATTERY CHARGES OF OUR TRANSISTORS! BUT WILL THE CHARGE BE STRONG ENOUGH?
AT LEAST IT'S GIVING THEM A GOOD JOLT...
CONGRATULATIONS, MR. SPOCK--YOU MADE JUNK HEAPS OUT OF THEM!
AND NOW LET US LEARN WHAT IS BEHIND THAT DOOR---IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO PROGRAM HOSTILITY INTO THOSE ROBOT GUARDS!
WHY...THIS MUST BE THE UNOITE WAR ROOM! BUT WHY WOULD A PEACEFUL RACE NEED SUCH A ROOM?
PERHAPS THE ANSWER CAN BE FOUND WITHIN THOSE TOP SECRET FILES, CAPTAIN!
THE CURIOUS HUMANS RUMMAGE THROUGH THE FILES--AND SUDDENLY FREEZE IN THEIR TRACKS AS...
HERE IS THE ANSWER TO OUR QUESTION, CAPTAIN--OBSERVE THESE PHOTOGRAPHS!
NO WONDER THEY PROGRAMMED THEIR ROBOTS TO GUARD THIS ROOM WITH THEIR MECHANICAL "LIVES"!

OUR LEADER JUSTIN I LEADING ASSAULT AGAINST JUSTIN II'S REBELS
REBELS BOMB CAPITAL
CASUALTIES
JUSTIN I
ORANGE ARMY
37,000
JUSTIN II
GREEN ARMY
103,000
POPULATION
453,000 DEAD
BURIAL OF CIVILIANS AFTER RAID.
RETALIATION AGAINST GREEN REBELS

THE PLANET NUMERO UNO WAS ENGAGED IN A *DEADLY WAR!* THESE ARE NOT THE HELPLESS PEACE-LOVING PEOPLE THEY FEIGN TO BE!
THAT WOULD SEEM LOGICAL!
IT FOLLOWS THAT THEY WERE *FORCED* TO CALL A TRUCE WHEN THE DEADLY RINGS ENCIRCLED THE PLANET!
YES...
... AND ONCE WE HAVE *FREED* THEM OF THE YOKE OF PEACE, THEY WILL *CONTINUE* THE FIGHT! WE'LL HAVE TO SHAKE THEM UP A BIT!
AND AS THE *TWIN SUPREMES* APPEAR ON THE SCREEN AGAIN...
WHAT NEWS? CAN YOU HELP US?
ER... VERY WELL, CAPTAIN!
MEET US ABOARD OUR SHIP IN ONE HOUR! THIS IS *URGENT! BE* THERE!
AN HOUR LATER, THE CAPTAIN AND HIS MEN ARE BACK ABOARD THE ENTERPRISE...
THIS IS IT... A *SUMMIT MEETING IN SPACE!*

IF WE ELIMINATE THE DEATH RINGS FOR THEM WE WILL, IN ACTUALITY, BE STARTING A WAR!
QUITE LOGICAL!
BUT IF WE DO NOT AID THEM WE ARE, TECHNICALLY, KILLING THEM!
THAT LOGIC OF YOURS CAN BE DISTURBING AT TIMES, MR. SPOCK! OPEN THE AIR LOCKS!
THEN, A GRIM-FACED CAPTAIN CONFRONTS THE TWIN SUPREMES...
TAKE SEATS! I WILL BE ABRUPT AND TO THE POINT! I ACCUSE YOU OF DECEPTION...
I HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE YOU WANT YOUR PLANET POPULATED AGAIN ONLY TO DESTROY THE CITIZENS IN WAR!
B-BUT THAT IS NOT TRUE, CAPTAIN! WE WISH TO SAVE OUR PEOPLE!
YOU LIE! THESE PHOTOS PROVE YOU HAVE BEEN WARRING AGAINST EACH OTHER FOR HALF A CENTURY!
CAPTAIN! THEY ARE REACHING FOR WEAPONS!
CONTINUED...

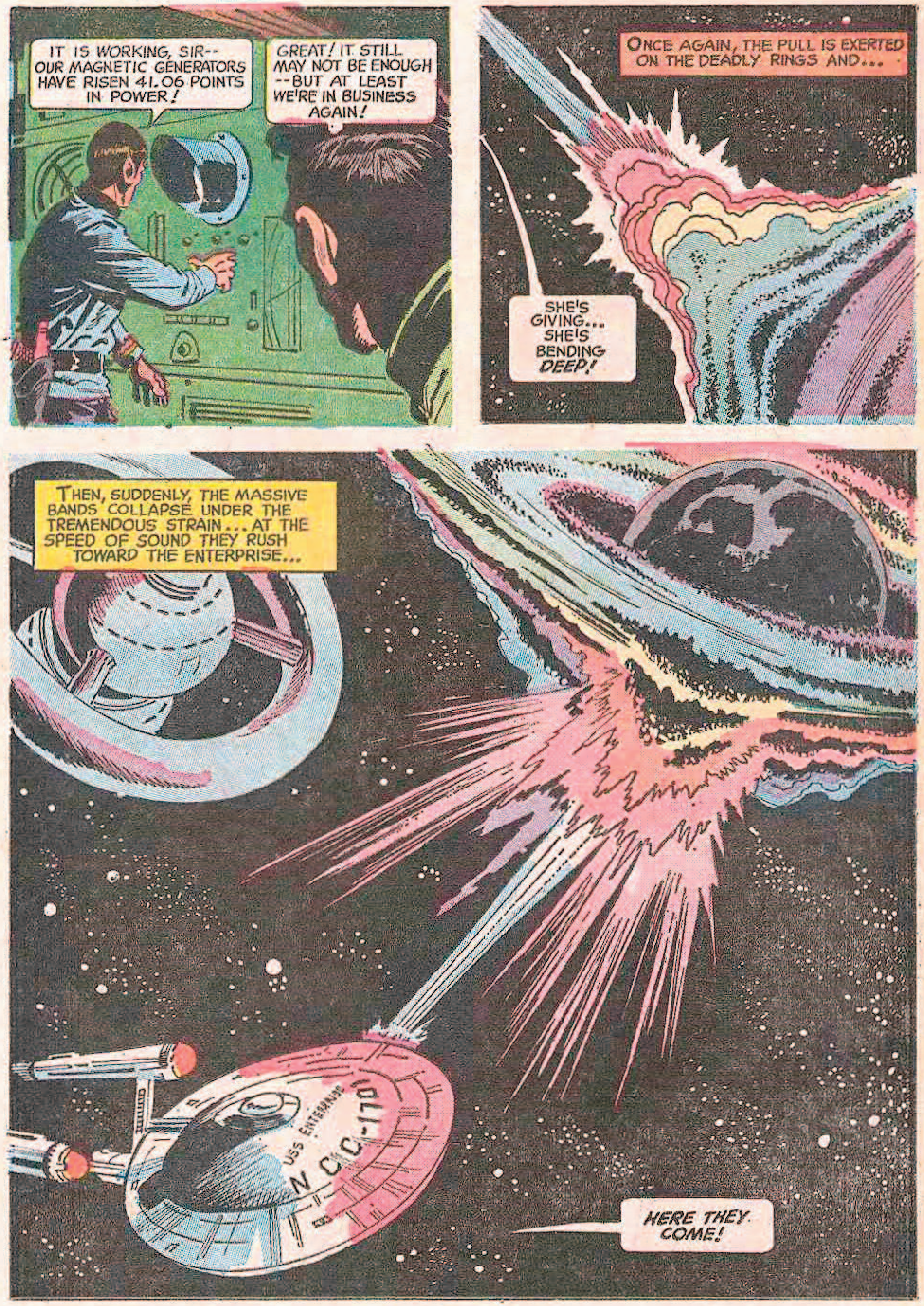
STAR TREK The GHOST PLANET
PART II
AS TWIN SUPREMES OF THE PLANET NUMERO UNO ENTER THE ENTERPRISE, KIRK CONFRONTS THEM WITH THE PHOTOGRAPHIC EVIDENCE THAT THEY WERE AT WAR AND...
INDEED, THEY ARE INSTINCTIVELY BRACED TO DO BATTLE! THE MOMENT YOU SHOWED THEM THE PHOTOGRAPHS THEIR HANDS FLEW TO THEIR WEAPONS, CAPTAIN KIRK!
CEASE! I-I WILL NOT RESIST FURTHER!

ALL RIGHT, YOU TWO CHARACTERS! YOU WERE BATTLING EACH OTHER, WEREN'T YOU? EACH FIGHTING FOR CONTROL OF PLANET NUMERO UNO!
Y-YES...

AND THEN THE DOOM RINGS CAME AND YOU HAD TO STOP THE WAR TO SAVE BOTH YOUR NECKS?
WE... CAN NOT DENY THE FACTS!
HERE'S ANOTHER FACT! OUR JOB IS TO BRING PEACE TO THE GALAXIES! WE BELIEVE IT BEST TO LET YOUR CIVILIZATION DIE OUT!
NO... NO!
WHY NOT? IF WE MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR YOU TO RETURN FROM THE SATELLITES YOU'LL JUST SLAUGHTER YOURSELVES ANYWAY!
BUT WE CANNOT DO THAT! THERE ARE NO WEAPONS LEFT!
WHAT FOOLS DO YOU THINK WE ARE? YOU'LL MAKE MORE WAR! NO... YOU REMAIN ON YOUR DYING SATELLITES!
WAIT! I HAVE A PLAN...
...LEAVE VISUAL DETECTORS OVER OUR MANUFACTURING AREAS! FROM SPACE YOU CAN OBSERVE US FOR YEARS! IF WE START TO BUILD AGAIN YOU CAN DESTROY US BY TIME DEVICES LEFT BEHIND!

WELL, SPOCK...
IT IS CONSTRUCTIVELY PUT! OUR WORK IS TO HELP PLANETS— NOT WATCH THEM DIE!
VERY WELL! RETURN TO YOUR SATELLITES AT ONCE! THE ENTERPRISE HAS WORK TO DO! YOU WILL BE INFORMED!
SPOCK..!
WITHIN THE LAB ROOM OF THE STAR SHIP ENTERPRISE KIRK AND SPOCK STUDY THE PROBLEM...
IF THE FULL FORCE OF OUR MAGNETIC GENERATORS CAN MAKE A CRACK IN ONE SECTION OF THE RINGS, BEND IT SHARPLY ENOUGH...
...WE MAY BE ABLE TO PULL ALL THE DOOM RINGS THROUGH IT INTO SPACE!
RIGHT, MR. SPOCK! THAT'S OUR ONLY SHOT! LET'S GO!
FIVE MINUTES LATER, THE FULL FORCE OF THE ENTERPRISE'S MAGNETIC GENERATORS ARE PROPELLED DOWNWARD...

A SECTION OF THE COPPER-FILLED RINGS BEND AS THE RAYS HIT...
WE'RE GETTING A STRONG POSITIVE REACTION, CAPTAIN!
BUT NOT STRONG ENOUGH! KEEP TRYING!
MINUTE AFTER MINUTE, THE POWERFUL MAGNETIC FORCE DRAWS UPON THE RINGS...
WE'VE FAILED! OUR MAGNETIC GENERATORS ARE BEING WEAKENED... FURTHER ATTEMPT IS USELESS!
PERHAPS THERE IS ANOTHER MEANS, CAPTAIN!
IF WE DREW THE POWER OF THE SATELLITES' MAGNETIC FIELD INTO OUR GENERATORS, THE ADDED POWER MIGHT...
YOU'VE HIT IT, MR. SPOCK! COMMENCE OPERATION!
QUICKLY, ELECTRONIC "RIFLES" ARE AIMED AT THE MAGNETIC FIELD OF THE TWIN SATELLITES...
IT'S WORKING, MR. SPOCK! WE'RE SUCKING IN THE MAGNETIC FIELDS!


IT IS WORKING, SIR-- OUR MAGNETIC GENERATORS HAVE RISEN 41.06 POINTS IN POWER!
GREAT! IT STILL MAY NOT BE ENOUGH --BUT AT LEAST WE'RE IN BUSINESS AGAIN!
ONCE AGAIN, THE PULL IS EXERTED ON THE DEADLY RINGS AND...
SHE'S GIVING... SHE'S BENDING DEEP!
THEN, SUDDENLY, THE MASSIVE BANDS COLLAPSE UNDER THE TREMENDOUS STRAIN... AT THE SPEED OF SOUND THEY RUSH TOWARD THE ENTERPRISE...
USS ENTERPRISE
NCC-1701
HERE THEY COME!

WE'VE GOT THEM ALL...EVERY DEADLY RING! PREPARE TO CUT POWERS!
OF COURSE! OTHERWISE THEY WOULD COLLIDE WITH THE ENTERPRISE...ENTER OUR SHIP ITSELF!
OUT INTO DEEP SPACE THE NOW CONVULSING BEAMS STREAK...
AT THE PRECISE MOMENT, MR. SPOCK CUTS OFF THE POWER...
NOW! WE HAVE THEM GOING FAST ENOUGH TO CONTINUE, I BELIEVE, CAPTAIN!
...WHERE SOME MYSTERIOUS SOLAR ACTION BURSTS THEM ASUNDER...

WHILE WITHIN THE ENTERPRISE, JOYOUS WORD IS RECEIVED FROM THE TWIN SUPREMES...
WONDERFUL WORK, FRIENDS! WE SHALL RETURN TO OUR HOME AT ONCE!
NO, WAIT...
THERE MAY HAVE BEEN A DANGEROUS COPPER CONTENT DISCHARGED DOWN FROM THE REACTION! WE'LL TEST THE AREA FIRST!
I SHALL BRING THE TEST GEAR TO THE TRANSPORTING CHAMBER!
SOON AFTER...
IF THERE ARE SIGNS OF COPPER PENETRATION IT MAY BE YEARS BEFORE THEY CAN RETURN, MR. SPOCK!
WE SHALL SOON KNOW, CAPTAIN! THIS AREA HERE WAS MOST VULNERABLE!
SUDDENLY, A GEIGER COUNTER CLICKS...
COPPER RADIATION, MR. SPOCK?
NO, CAPTAIN!
CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK
CLICK CLICK
...ATOMIC RADIATION, SIR--COMING FROM THAT AREA!

MEANWHILE, ON ONE OF THE MAN-MADE SATELLITES TWO SPACEMEN OBSERVE A SCANNER WITH CONCERN...
I... BELIEVE THEY HAVE LOCATED THE "NEST"!
GAR! LET US PRAY NOT!
BUT CAPTAIN KIRK AND MR. SPOCK HAVE CERTAINLY FOUND SOMETHING...
MUCH STRONGER... FROM WITHIN THE HILL!
THERE'S A CREVICE LEADING INSIDE THAT HILL! HURRY!
SLIPPING THROUGH THE OPENING, THE PAIR GAPE IN SHOCK AS...
INSTRUMENTS OF WAR, CAPTAIN!
B-BUT HOW ... WHY?
THEN, AS THEY ENTER A VAST CAVERN...
THE PROPERTY OF THE TWIN SUPREMES... SEPARATED! GREAT SPACE GHOSTS! THEY CACHED THEIR WEAPONS FOR FUTURE USE!
PROPERTY JUSTIN II
CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK CLICK
PROPERTY JUSTIN 1
THE RADIATION COUNT IS CLIMBING RAPIDLY!

URANIUM! OBVIOUSLY THEY WERE ON THE VERGE OF ATOMIC WARFARE BEFORE THEY HAD TO FLEE!
THE LYING SPACE SCUM! AND THEY SWORE TO US THERE WERE NO WEAPONS LEFT!
STRANGE! A PLANET ADVANCED ENOUGH TO MAKE ARTIFICIAL SATELLITES WITHOUT SIMPLE ATOMIC BOMB KNOWLEDGE!
I PREFER TO BELIEVE AN ATOMIC TRUCE HAD JUST BEEN BROKEN, CAPTAIN!
OTHERWISE THEY WOULD HAVE DESTROYED THEMSELVES LONG AGO!
MR. SPOCK! TROUBLE IN THE SKY!
SPACESHIPS FROM THE SATELLITES, CAPTAIN!
OF COURSE! THEY'VE BEEN TELE-SCREENING OUR ACTIONS! THEY KNOW WE'VE LOCATED THEIR "LIE"!
AND THEY INTEND TO DISPOSE OF US NOW THAT THE DOOM RINGS ARE GONE!

DESPERATELY, KIRK CONTACTS THE ENTERPRISE...
WE'RE TRAPPED, MR. SPOCK--WE CAN'T FIGHT THE ROCKET SHIP WEAPONS...
CAPTAIN TO ENTERPRISE! THROW THE TRANSPORTER SWITCH AT ONCE, DR. McCOY! WE'RE IN BIG TROUBLE!
BUT A MOMENT LATER...
I... CAN'T GET THROUGH, SIR! THE TRANSPORTER IS JAMMED SOMEHOW!
WE'VE HAD IT, SPOCK... THEIR SHIP'S ELECTRONIC FIELD HAS US STYMIED!
FACE DEATH LIKE MEN, STRANGERS FROM SPACE! YOU CANNOT HIDE!
SIR! I HAVE A THOUGHT...QUICKLY ...I MUST SPEAK TO THE SHIP! NO TIME TO EXPLAIN! TRY TO STALL THEM A MOMENT!
WHAT DOGS OF SPACE DESTROY THOSE WHO SAVE THEM, JUSTINS!
OF SUCH TRICKS ARE CONQUERORS MADE, KIRK! HA, HA!
SUDDENLY...
SPOCK??
HOLD FIRE! SHOOT AND YOU DESTROY YOURSELVES!

THE VISITOR SEEKS TO BLUFF US, JUSTIN II!
IT WILL NOT SAVE HIS LIFE, JUSTIN I!
WHAT I SAY CAN MOST CERTAINLY SAVE YOURS...
...OBSERVE FOR YOURSELVES... THERE IN THE HEAVENS ABOVE YOUR PLANET!
ABRUPTLY, THE PAIR GAPE IN AWE AS THEY LOOK SPACEWARD...
T-THE RAINBOW BANDS W-WITH COPPER DEATH... THEY HAVE RETURNED!
B-BUT HOW IS IT POSSIBLE? WE SAW THEM DESTROYED IN DEEP SPACE!
WH-WHAT IN THUNDER?
WHILE DESTROYING THE BANDS WE SOLVED THEIR SECRET! AT A MOMENT'S NOTICE WE CAN ENCIRCLE YOUR PLANET AGAIN WITH THEM!
NOW! EITHER DROP YOUR GUNS OR FIRE! IF WE DIE YOUR ENTIRE CIVILIZATION PERISHES!
NO...NO! YOU MAY GO FREE! JUST TAKE YOUR DEADLY BANDS WITH YOU!

MUST CLEAR THE ELECTRONIC FIELD FOR TRANSPORTING!
VERY WELL, JUSTINS, WE WILL ELIMINATE THE BANDS! BUT FIRST YOUR CRAFT MUST BE DISABLED TO KEEP YOU HERE!
HOWEVER SPOCK DID IT, I'D BEST FOLLOW THROUGH WITH HIM!
AND THEN YOUR SECRET WAR SUPPLIES MUST BE DESTROYED!
WE SHALL LEAVE A DETECTION DEVICE IN SPACE! SHOULD YOU WAR AGAIN THE DEATH BANDS RETURN FOREVER!
WHEW! SPOCK REALLY PULLED A RABBIT OUT OF THE HAT THIS TIME!
AND LATER...
THEY WERE TERRIFIED... THEY'LL CERTAINLY NEVER WAR AGAIN! BUT... HOW DID YOU RECREATE THOSE BANDS, SPOCK?
A MERE VISION, CAPTAIN KIRK! I HAD DR. McCOY PLAY THE FILMS WE MADE OF THE OPERATION BACK INTO THEIR ATMOS-PHERE!
...THEY WERE SEEING A REFLECTION... A RAINBOW IN THE SKY! QUITE ELEMENTARY, REALLY!
WELL, THERE WAS QUITE A POT OF GOLD AT THE END OF YOUR RAINBOW, SPOCK! WE'VE STOPPED A WAR AND SAVED A CIVILIZATION ON THIS MISSION!

GOLD KEY
STAR TREK
15c
STAR TREK
10210-912
DECEMBER
THINK FAST MR. SPOCK!
A Freak Impulsion Is Creating GALACTIC DISASTER!
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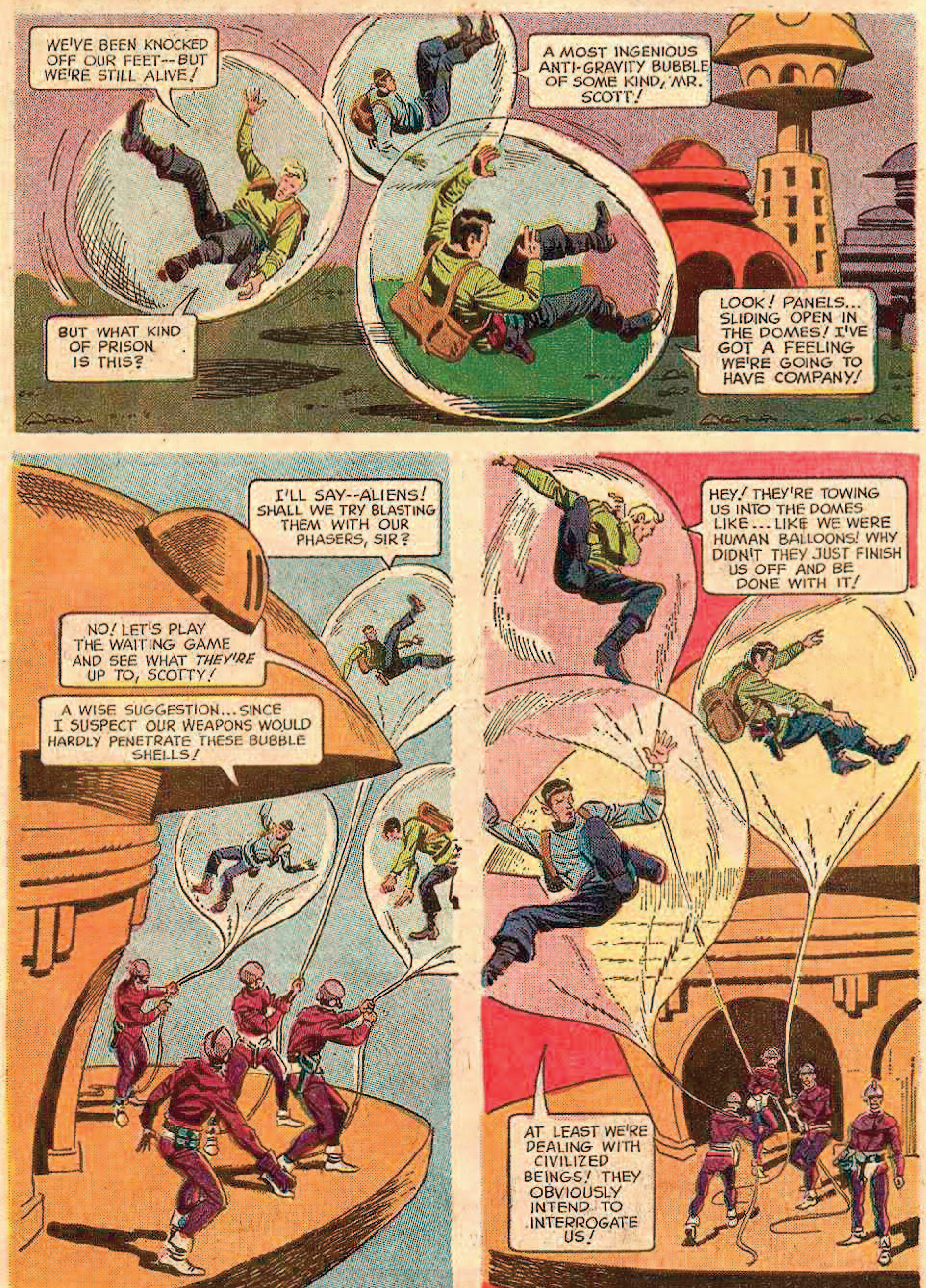
CAPTAIN'S LOG, STAR DATE, 23:009--TOP BRASS STUDIED A CURIOUS PICK-UP ON THE SCREEN OF THE ENTERPRISE'S TV SPACE SCANNER...
THE OPERATORS HAVE BEEN TRACKING THOSE U.B.* BLIPS SINCE THEY APPEARED IN THE ALPHO GALAXY! WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THEM, MR. SPOCK?
HMM-M... ALTHOUGH THEY ARE ON A DIRECT COURSE WITH ONE ANOTHER THERE'S STILL A BILLION-MILE RANGE BETWEEN THEM...
*U.B.--UNIDENTIFIED BODY
...AND THE ODDS AGAINST COLLISION ARE JUST ABOUT THAT GREAT! STILL, CAPTAIN, WE'D BETTER KEEP OUR SPACE EYES ON THEM!
I AGREE! AND SINCE WE'RE THE CLOSEST SHIP TO THEM IN THE STAR FLEET, I'M GOING TO SET CRUISE COURSE IN THAT DIRECTION!
FIVE DAYS LATER A STARTLING ANNOUNCEMENT COMES OVER THE LOUDSPEAKER...
COMMUNICATIONS HERE, SIR! THOSE BLIPS ON OUR TV SCANNER--WE'VE IDENTIFIED THEM! THEY'RE... PLANETS!
PLANETS...IN THE GALAXY AND ORBITING ALPHO! QUITE INCONCEIVABLE--THIS MUST BE CHECKED OUT IMMEDIATELY, CAPTAIN!
THERE ARE OUR SPACE BOGIES--AND STILL ON COLLISION COURSE! MR. SPOCK...WHAT IF THEY SHOULD HIT...?
AT THEIR ESTIMATED POINT OF CONTACT, THE RESULTS WOULD BE CATASTROPHIC, SCOTTY!
THE SHOCK WAVES UPON IMPACT ALONE WOULD PITCH MANY OF THE ALPHO PLANETS OUT OF ORBIT...TO BURN IN SPACE!

WE STILL DON'T KNOW IF THOSE FOREIGN PLANETS ARE INHABITED--TRY TO RAISE THEM ON OUR SOS SPACE FREQUENCY, OPERATOR...
AYE, SIR!
NERVES DRAW TAUT AS THE FRANTIC SIGNAL IS SENT FROM THE SPACECRAFT TIME AND AGAIN! BUT...
NEGATIVE, CAPTAIN!
GOOD! NOW OUR ACTION IS CLEAR--DESTROY ONE OF THE PLANETS AND ELIMINATE THE COLLISION THREAT!
THERE IS STILL AMPLE TIME TO INTERCEPT EITHER PLANET WELL BEFORE ESTIMATED COLLISION TIME, CAPTAIN...
WE'RE CLOSEST BY SEVERAL THOUSAND GALAXY MILES TO F.P.-1*
GIVE THE NAVIGATOR THAT COURSE, MR. SPOCK!
*FOREIGN PLANET-1
THE CRUISING PACE OF THE ENTERPRISE IS ABRUPTLY BROKEN BY A SINGLE COMMAND AND...
UNDER FULL ROCKET THRUST, CAPTAIN!
LIKE A MISSILE HOMING ON TARGET, THE SPACE-CRAFT REACHES ITS OBJECTIVE A GALAXY-DAY LATER...
NO SIGN OF LIFE--NOT SO MUCH AS A SHRUB! NO WONDER WE DIDN'T RECEIVE A REPLY FROM OUR SOS TRANSMISSION, CAPTAIN!
WE'LL LAND A TEAM TO PLANT THE HYDROGEN CHARGES AT ONCE! I'LL LEAD THE GROUP... MR. SPOCK AND SCOTTY WILL ACCOMPANY ME!

THE CREW IN THE TRANSPORTER ROOM IS ON THE ALERT! BEAMS ILLUMINATE THE LANDING PARTY UNTIL THEIR BODIES GRADUALLY DISSOLVE ...
AND BLEND INTO THE ETHER OF TIME AND SPACE UNTIL MATERIALIZATION OCCURS ON THE PLANET BELOW...
CAPTAIN! THOSE GROWTHS ATOP THE DOMES...THEY'RE *MOVING!*
ATMOSPHERE FAVORABLE... NO NEED FOR FILTER MASKS...
SPLASH!
WE'VE BEEN ATTACKED! THE PLANET *IS* INHABITED!

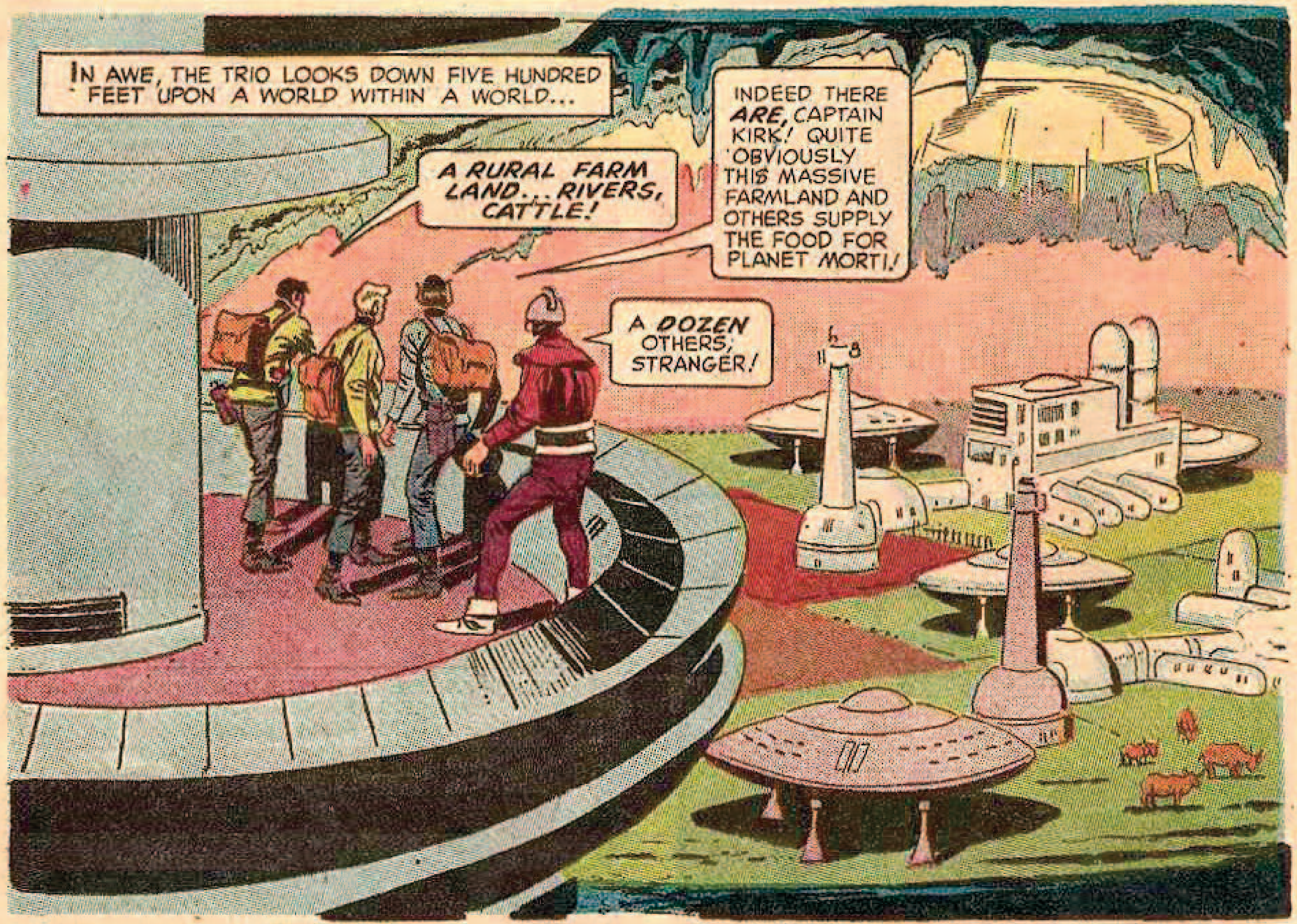

WE'VE BEEN KNOCKED OFF OUR FEET--BUT WE'RE STILL ALIVE!
A MOST INGENIOUS ANTI-GRAVITY BUBBLE OF SOME KIND, MR. SCOTT!
BUT WHAT KIND OF PRISON IS THIS?
LOOK! PANELS... SLIDING OPEN IN THE DOMES! I'VE GOT A FEELING WE'RE GOING TO HAVE COMPANY!
I'LL SAY--ALIENS! SHALL WE TRY BLASTING THEM WITH OUR PHASERS, SIR?
NO! LET'S PLAY THE WAITING GAME AND SEE WHAT *THEY'RE* UP TO, SCOTTY!
A WISE SUGGESTION... SINCE I SUSPECT OUR WEAPONS WOULD HARDLY PENETRATE THESE BUBBLE SHELLS!
HEY! THEY'RE TOWING US INTO THE DOMES LIKE... LIKE WE WERE HUMAN BALLOONS! WHY DIDN'T THEY JUST FINISH US OFF AND BE DONE WITH IT!
AT LEAST WE'RE DEALING WITH CIVILIZED BEINGS! THEY OBVIOUSLY INTEND TO INTERROGATE US!

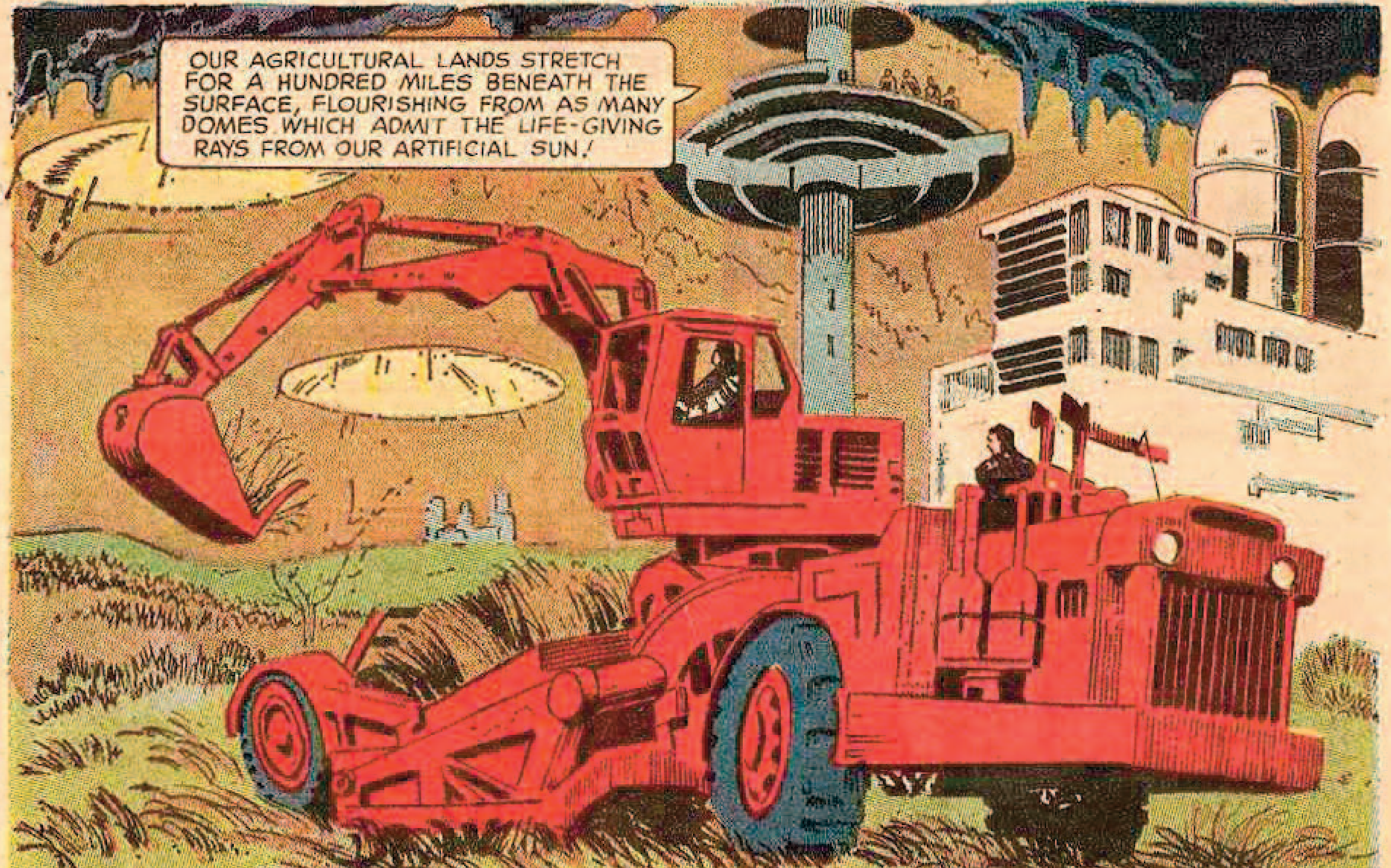
INSIDE THE ALIEN DOME THE IMPRISONING GLOBES ARE BURST IN A FRIGHTENING MANNER...
STOP! DON'T KILL! WE ARE FRIENDS... COME TO TELL YOU A TERRIBLE FACT! WE ARE NOT HOSTILE!
UNLESS THEY ALREADY KNOW THAT FACT, CAPTAIN!
THEN, THE TRIO ARE SLAMMED INTO ELECTRONIC CHAIRS OF A STRANGE DESIGN...
MAGNETIC CHAIRS...HOLDING FLESH DOWN LIKE METAL! WHAT DO YOU THINK THEY'RE UP TO, MR. SPOCK?
I CAN ONLY DEDUCE THAT THEY ARE TESTING US! PERHAPS SEEKING TO PROVE WHAT THEY DO NOT BELIEVE!
AND INDEED MR. SPOCK IS CORRECT! FOR SCANT MOMENTS LATER ELECTRICAL IMPULSES PENETRATE THE BRAINS OF THE TRAPPED MEN...
SPEAK TRUTH, ALIENS! HAVE YOU COME TO DESTROY WHAT CENTURIES OF TIME HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO DO? ANSWER!
W-WE HAVE COME TO... AID YOU!

AND AS THE TRUTH SHOCKS POUR THROUGH THE TRIO...
WHERE DO YOU COME FROM? IDENTIFY!
W-WE ARE SPACE PIONEERS ...FROM STAR SHIP ENTERPRISE...
ONLY ONE WAY TO PROVE OURSELVES...
GAIN CONTROL...THEN CONVINCE THEM WE MEAN NO HARM... GOT TO REACH MY PHASER...
WHAT SEEK YOU HERE?
WE... COME TO WARN YOU!..
SUDDENLY, AS CAPTAIN KIRK'S HAND REACHES HIS WEAPON...
...YOU ARE ON A...COLLISION COURSE WITH ANOTHER PLANET!
GOT IT!
ZAP!
SCOTTY! SPOCK....
...MOVE IT!

SHOUTING IN SPACE ESPERANTO, THE LEADER OF THE ENTERPRISE CONFRONTS HIS CAPTORS WITH THE FACTS...
YOU'VE HAD YOUR FUN! NOW LISTEN! WE ARE NOT INVADERS! WITHIN THREE STAR-GALAXY DAYS YOUR PLANET WILL COLLIDE WITH ANOTHER PLANET!
A FOREIGN PLANET THAT IS ON A DIRECT COLLISION COURSE WITH THIS ONE!
THE CATACLYSMIC IMPACT OF THE MEETING WILL JAR OTHER PLANETS OUT OF ORBIT IN THE ALPHO GALAXY...
AND PERHAPS ACTUALLY DECIMATE SOME, SIR!
BUT, GENTLEMEN... WHY DID YOU ROCKET HERE? HOW CAN WE PREVENT SUCH A CATASTROPHE?
NOT KNOWING YOUR PLANET WAS INHABITED, WE INTENDED TO... ATOMIZE IT!
TO DESTROY US! AND NOW... NOW WHAT CAN BE DONE?
THE OTHER PLANET ... WE MUST NOW HOPE WE CAN VAPORIZE IT!
SPOCK! SCOTTY! LOOK!

A WARMING GLOW OF BRILLIANT LIGHT FILLS THE CHAMBER AND...
WHAT'S HAPPENING? IS THIS ANOTHER TRICK? IF IT IS...
NO, NO! THAT IS OUR SUN, GENTLEMEN FROM THE ENTERPRISE!
IT IS AN ARTIFICIAL SUN... MADE MANY CENTURIES AGO WHEN OUR OWN SUN DIED AND LEFT US A COLD AND DYING WORLD!
BUT, OF COURSE, YOU COULD NOT UNDERSTAND! COME... LET ME SHOW YOU HOW WE SURVIVE HERE ON THE PLANET MORTI!
IT HAS TAKEN US MANY TIME-SPACE CENTURIES TO DEVELOP...
THINK WE'RE BEING BOONDOGGLED... "PUT ON," MR. SPOCK?
I... DO NOT THINK SO, CAPTAIN!
THEN...
YIIIPES! BE-BEJABBERS! LOOK AT THAT!


IN AWE, THE TRIO LOOKS DOWN FIVE HUNDRED FEET UPON A WORLD WITHIN A WORLD...
A RURAL FARM LAND... RIVERS, CATTLE!
INDEED THERE ARE, CAPTAIN KIRK! QUITE OBVIOUSLY THIS MASSIVE FARMLAND AND OTHERS SUPPLY THE FOOD FOR PLANET MORTI!
A DOZEN OTHERS, STRANGER!


OUR AGRICULTURAL LANDS STRETCH FOR A HUNDRED MILES BENEATH THE SURFACE, FLOURISHING FROM AS MANY DOMES WHICH ADMIT THE LIFE-GIVING RAYS FROM OUR ARTIFICIAL SUN!

THEN, EVER SINCE YOUR PLANET BEGAN TO DIE YOUR PEOPLE HAVE LIVED ON THE SURFACE AND FARMED FOR YOUR FOOD BELOW!
THAT IS CORRECT! WE HAVE NO BUSINESS, NO GREAT INDUSTRIES... WE MERELY SURVIVE!
ONE THING, SIR! I CAN NOT UNDERSTAND WHY WE COULD NOT OBSERVE YOUR ARTIFICIAL SUN VIA OUR OBSERVATIONS OF YOUR PLANET!
AH, THAT IS QUITE SIMPLE...
TO CONSERVE ITS VITAL THERMO-HYDROGEN FUEL WE TRIGGER THE SUN FORCE BUT FIVE HOURS A DAY! THAT IS QUITE SUFFICIENT!
CERTAINLY! AND THE ROTATION OF YOUR PLANET KEPT THE SUN SIDE AWAY FROM US DURING OUR JOURNEY HERE! QUITE ASTONISHING!
TIME'S RUNNING OUT, MR. SPOCK!
YES! WITH EACH HOUR THE PLANETS' SPEED TOWARD EACH OTHER ACCELERATES 8,108 GALAXY MILES! WE MUST LEAVE FOR F.P.-2 IMMEDIATELY!
MOMENTS LATER, AS THE TRANSPORTING MACHINE FROM THE ENTERPRISE BEGINS TO BLEND THE THREE INTO THE ETHER OF TIME...
WE WILL KEEP YOU INFORMED! HAVE COURAGE, MY FRIEND!
THANK YOU, SPACE PIONEERS! IT IS GOOD TO KNOW WE HAVE NEW FRIENDS IN THIS GALAXY!

AND ONCE ABOARD THE ENTERPRISE...
ROCKET CONTROL! FULL ROCKETS THRUST TOWARD FOREIGN PLANET TWO!
AYE, AYE, SIR!
ALL YOUR SPECTROSCOPE READINGS INDICATE NO LIFE, MR. SPOCK!
AFFIRMATIVE!
ON THE BASIS OF OXYGEN AND SURFACE FOLIAGE! LIFE AS WE KNOW IT, THAT IS!
AND HOURS LATER, AS THE ENTERPRISE NUDGES THE SPEED OF LIGHT IN HER DESPERATE FLIGHT TOWARD THE DOOMED PLANET...
ORE CONTENT OF PLANET GETTING STRONGER! IT IS OF UNKNOWN MATTER!
READY RETRO ROCKETS! PREPARE FOR ORBITING THRUST!
HIGH ORE CONTENT, I SHOULD THINK SO! THERE APPEARS TO BE NOTHING DOWN THERE BUT IRON MOUNTAINS!
MOUNTAINS... BUT NOT IRON, CAPTAIN!

THE STAR SHIP ENTERPRISE ORBITS FOREIGN PLANET TWO, SEEKING SIGNS OF LIFE...
RATHER STRANGE, EH, MR. SPOCK!
NO, CAPTAIN, THOSE MOUNTAINS ARE NOT COMPOSED OF IRON! THE SPECTROSCOPE READINGS INDICATE AN UNKNOWN, HIGHLY ACTIVE METAL CONTENT!
NCC-17
THEN, AS THE CRAFT DIVES FOR CLOSER SURVEYING...
YI-YIKES!
SCOTTY! SU-SUFFERING HANNAH--HE'S BEEN SLAMMED INTO THE CHAMBER WALL!
SOME POWER... PULLING HIM!
WHAT IS IT YOU HAVE IN YOUR POCKET? SOME IMMENSELY POWERFUL FORCE IS REACTING UPON IT!
I... I...
...PICKED UP A PIECE OF ROCK FROM F.P.-1 WHEN WE LANDED... AS A-A SOUVENIR...
IT IS BEING MAGNETIZED FROM BELOW...

THEN, AS THE ORE IS RIPPED FROM MR. SPOCK'S HANDS...
I CAN NOT HOLD IT! RIGHT THE SHIP! HURRY!!
CRASH!
LEVEL OFF!
A FANTASTIC FORCE...EMANATING FROM THE TERRAIN OF F.P.-2 AND DRAWING UPON THAT PIECE OF ROCK... STRONGER THAN THE MOST POWERFUL ELECTRO MAGNET!
BUT HOW? WHY?
AND AS THE SPACE CRAFT LEVELS OFF, IT CREATES A BIZARRE EFFECT ON SCOTTY'S PIECE OF ORE...
OBSERVE, AS THE SHIP LEVELS...
...THE MAGNETIC PULL IS CHANGING DIRECTION...
...PULLING THE ROCK DOWNWARD TOWARD THE PLANET!
THERE IS THE ANSWER TO OUR PLANET COLLISION PROBLEM, CAPTAIN!! THE ORE IN THOSE MOUNTAIN RANGES IS REACTING UPON THE CRUST OF F.P.-1...
...THE MAGNETIC INFLUENCE IS SO POWERFUL IT SURGES THROUGH SPACE AND IS DRAWING THE PLANET TOWARD IT! A FREAK GALAXY CHEMISTRY IS CREATING THIS DISASTER!

THEN THE SOLUTION IS SIMPLE, MR. SPOCK--ATOMIZE THE MOUNTAINS OUT OF EXISTENCE AND ELIMINATE THE PROBLEM!
ASSUMING THERE IS NO LIFE THERE!
THERE CAN'T BE! WE'VE ORBITED THE PLANET THREE TIMES... NOT A SPARK OF LIFE SEEN! NO SURFACE DOMES... NOTHING!
WAIT!
BEFORE WE TRANSPORT DOWN LET US USE THAT ORE AS A TEST PIECE! WE MAY BE ABLE TO FIND A MINERAL THAT WILL BREAK THE MAGNETIC PULL!
GOOD!
MOMENTS LATER, FOUR STRONG MEN ARE NEEDED TO WITHSTAND THE FANTASTIC PULL OF THE MOUNTAIN METAL AGAINST F.P.-1'S ORE...
REALIGN THE LAB VISE FOR OVERHEAD EXPERIMENT!
RIGHT, MR SPOCK!
THEN...
IF WE CAN FIND A METAL WITH THE RIGHT CHEMICAL CONTENT TO BREAK THE PULL BETWEEN F.P.-2'S MOUNTAIN METAL AND F.P.-1'S ORE WE CAN BUILD A SPACE-BREAK BETWEEN THEM!
YES, IT WOULD GIVE US TIME TO DESTROY THE MOUNTAINS!

FOR TWO HOURS MR. SPOCK LABORS TO CRACK THE SECRET, BUT...
NO LUCK... I HAVE GONE THROUGH 101 METALS IN OUR CHEMICAL TABLE BUT THE MAGNETIC FORCE IS THE SAME!
THAT DOES IT!
THE TRANSPORTER ROOM, DR. McCOY, MR. SPOCK ... SCOTTY! WE CAN'T WASTE ANOTHER MINUTE!
AS THE FOUR TAKE THEIR PLACES IN THE TRANSPORTER ROOM, BEAMS FROM ABOVE ILLUMINATE THEM...
IT MAY TAKE A LONG TIME TO DEMOLISH THOSE MAGNETIC MOUNTAINS! AND COLLISION TIME IS SHORT!
INSTANTS LATER, THE MEN ARE TRANSPORTED THROUGH SPACE TO APPEAR ON THE BIZARRE CELESTIAL BODY KNOWN AS FOREIGN PLANET TWO...
MATERIALIZATION COMPLETE! TRANSPORT ATOMIC EXPLOSIVE CHARGES DOWN AT ONCE!
AYE, AYE CAPTAIN!

SOME SIGHT! AN UGLY BALL OF TROUBLE CATAPULTING THROUGH THE UNIVERSE! SOMETIMES I WONDER HOW SUCH THINGS CAN BE!
WE HAVE MUCH TO LEARN IN THE FAR REACHES OF SPACE YET, CAPTAIN!
IT HAS SOME UNKNOWN PURPOSE AMONG THE STARS ...SUCH AS EARTH MUST HAVE HAD AT ONE TIME!
OH, COME ON... SPARE ME THAT VULCAN PHILOSOPHY OF YOURS RIGHT NOW, MR. SPOCK!
FROM THE APPEARANCE OF THE TERRAIN I CALCULATE ABOUT TWO TONS OF MINI-ATOMIC CHARGES WILL BE REQUIRED TO MELT THE MOUNTAIN RANGE!
OUR EXPLOSIVES!
IF THERE WAS TIME I'D BLOW THE WHOLE CUSSED PLANET UP... IT'S CERTAINLY NO USE TO THE GALAXY!
NO, I GATHER NOT, CAPTAIN! UNLESS, OF COURSE...
DR. McCOY, YOU AND SCOTTY TAKE THAT END OF THE RANGE! MR. SPOCK AND I WILL COVER THIS! USE YOUR PHASERS CAREFULLY MAKING THE DETONATION HOLES!

FOR FOUR TENSE HOURS THE SPACE PIONEERS PREPARE FOR OPERATION MOUNTAIN BLAST! THEIR PHASERS TUNNEL HOLES DEEP INSIDE THE METALLIC RANGE FOR CHARGES TO BE PLACED...
BZZZZZZ
BZZZZZ
FINALLY, ALL IS "GO"!..
ALL CHARGES SET, CAPTAIN!
WE'RE READY TO ROLL HERE ALSO! RENDEZVOUS AT THE TRANSPORTER SITE... ON THE DOUBLE!
AND AS THE TEAM PREPARES TO VANISH INTO THE ETHER OF TIME FOR RETURN TO THE SHIP...
WELL, THAT IS THAT, CAPTAIN! WE MUST BE WELL OUT OF RANGE BEFORE DETONATION... POWERFUL CHARGES INDEED!
YES! READY TO THROW THE TRANSPORTER SWITCH!
SUDDENLY...
WAIT!
??
WHAT IS IT, SPOCK? WHAT'S WRONG?
I THOUGHT I SAW SOMETHING MOVE... A LIVING FORM!

IT WAS OVER HERE... ON THE SIDE OF THE MOUNTAIN!
I... WAS CERTAIN... JUST ABOUT HERE!
IT CAN'T BE YOUR NERVES, MR. SPOCK... YOURS ARE LIKE WIRE FILAMENTS... PERHAPS AN OPTICAL ILLUSION...
NO, NO, CAPTAIN! THERE WAS A DEFINITE MOVEMENT... A BODY... MAN OR ANIMAL, I'M NOT SURE...
ABRUPTLY, A PATCH OF MOUNTAINSIDE OPENS UP AND...
STRANGE...
THEN...
SWISH
YUUUG!
SPOCK!

INTO THE DEPTHS OF THE MOUNTAIN SPOCK TUMBLES...
DOWN ... DOWN TOWARD A YAWNING CAVERN FAR BELOW HIS BODY HURTLES...
WHILE ABOVE...
A *TUNNEL*... INTO THE *MOUNTAIN!*
SPOCK *DID* SEE SOMETHING...AND THEY'VE *GOT* HIM! BREAK OUT YOUR FLARE LIGHTS! *HURRY!*

AN ALIEN-- THE ONE WHO TRAPPED MR. SPOCK, NO DOUBT! LET'S GO!
BELOW SPOCK BURSTS INTO A GLARE OF WHITE LIGHT...
GR-GREAT ZOUNDS!
A SHOCKING PANORAMA OF A CIVILIZATION BENEATH THE MOUNTAINS UNFOLDS BEFORE SPOCK'S STARTLED EYES...
A WORLD... AN INTELLIGENT PEOPLE ... LIVING BENEATH THE EARTH'S CRUST!
WHO ARE YOU, ALIEN INTRUDER? WHY DO YOU SEEK ENTRANCE INTO OUR LAND?

AND AS THE ALIEN SENTRY PLUMMETS INTO THE CHAMBER...
MORE ENEMIES COMING!
WAIT! WE ARE NOT FOES!
WE HAVE COME TO WARN YOU OF AN APPROACHING DISASTER TO YOUR PLANET AND TRY TO SAVE YOUR CIVILIZATION!
SO! BRING THEM TO MY THRONE CHAMBER...
FOOOSH!
FOOOSH!
...BUT LIGHT-BIND THEM WHILE I WEIGH THE TRUTH OF THEIR WORDS!

IN THE MAGNIFICENT SPLENDOR OF THE UNDERGROUND WORLD THE STRANGE LEADER EYES HIS CAPTIVES KEENLY...
YOU CAME TO WARN US? HOW DID YOU KNOW OF US INICRUST PEOPLES? NO OTHERS IN THE GALAXY REALIZE WE EXIST!
WE DID NOT KNOW OF YOU!
IT WAS YOUR METALLIC MOUNTAINS THAT DREW US HERE! THE MINERALS IN THEM ARE DRAWING YOUR PLANET TO A COLLISION COURSE WITH ANOTHER!
CONTINUE!
AND WHEN SPOCK HAS EXPLAINED THE IMPENDING CALAMITY...
RELEASE THEIR BONDS! I FEARED ONE DAY OUR UNSTABLE METALS MIGHT CREATE SUCH TERROR!
WE CAN ELIMINATE THE THREAT, SIR...
...BY SKILLFUL DETONATION WE CAN ATOMIZE THE MOUNTAINS WITHOUT DISTURBING YOUR WORLD BELOW!
NO! IT CANNOT BE DONE...
...YOU SEE, THE CHEMISTRY OF THE MOUNTAINS IS WHAT POWERS INICRUST! WE SURVIVE BY THE MOUNTAINS' FORCE!
THROW FEED SWITCHES!

IT HAS BEEN SO FOR A MILLION MILLION GALAXY YEARS! IT IS OUR LIGHT, HEAT, OXYGEN ...THE POWER TO RUN OUR MACHINES!
CRACKLE! CRACKLE!
EITHER WAY, THE INICRUSTS ARE DOOMED, MR. SPOCK... OUR MISSION HAS... FAILED!
08.4 STAR TIME! LESS THAN 26 HOURS BEFORE COLLISION! NOT A CHANCE TO PREVENT IT!
WAIT! PREPARE TO THROW THE TRANSPORTER SWITCH, CAPTAIN...
...THERE MAY BE ONE... VERY SLIM CHANCE!
SIR, WE WILL RETURN!
AND AS THE CREW BEGINS TO DEMATERIALIZE...
HAVE COURAGE THAT WE CAN SOLVE THE PROBLEM... IN TIME!

AND MOMENTS LATER, AS THEIR BODIES TAKE FORM IN THE TRANSPORTER ROOM OF THE ENTERPRISE...
ONE MOMENT MORE, CAPTAIN!
IN THE NAME OF BLUE THUNDER, SPOCK! --WHAT IS THIS SLIM CHANCE?
AS THE FIRST OFFICER HURRIES TO A DEEP GALAXY PROBE SCOPESCREEN...
THANKFUL SATELLITES! IT'S STILL THERE!
SPOCK! IS THAT THE LUMINOUS SPACE PARTICLE FROM THE STAR DOONA?
IT IS, CAPTAIN! A TRUE WONDER OF THE UNIVERSE...
"WHEN DOONA BECAME A SUPERNOVA AND EXPLODED, ONLY THAT ONE TEN THOUSAND-TON SECTION FAILED TO DISINTEGRATE...
"FOR CENTURIES, VULCAN SCIENTISTS OF MY PLANET STUDIED THE PHENOMENON...
TEN TIMES THE HARDNESS OF SPACE DIAMONDS...
YES, AND RADIATING A REPELLING FORCE OF THE TENTH MAGNITUDE!

HMMM! AND YOU THINK THE REPULSION FORCE STRONG ENOUGH TO KEEP F.P.-1 AND F.P.-2 APART?
VULCAN EXPERIMENTS INDICATED SO...
...THE DOONA SPACE PARTICLE WAS FOUND TO REACT STRONGLY ON THE KIND OF CHEMICAL CONTENT BOTH PLANETS HAVE! THAT SLIM CHANCE...
IF OF COURSE, WE CAN TOW IT BACK HERE IN TIME!
YOUR DECISION, CAPTAIN?
ALL ROCKETS ON FULL! STAR COURSE DEEP GALAXY PENETRATION!
MR. SPOCK, GIVE THEM THE EXACT HEADING! I'LL BE IN THE LAB RIGGING UP AN ELECTRONIC TOW ROPE!
SPOCK DIDN'T SAY IT, BUT HE KNOWS, ALSO---
THAT AREA OF SPACE IS PLAGUED WITH METEOR SWARMS...WE'RE RISKING THE ENTERPRISE AND HER CREW TO SAVE TWO PLANETS!

AS AFTER-BURNERS ARE TRIGGERED, THE ENTERPRISE PUSHES CLOSE TO THE SPEED OF LIGHT WHILE SHE HURTLES THROUGH SPACE ON HER DEADLY MISSION ...
INSIDE THE LARGEST, MOST COMPLEX SPACE-CRAFT IN THE UNIVERSE, HUNDREDS OF HIGHLY TRAINED MINDS CONCENTRATE UPON THE ONE PROBLEM AT HAND... OPERATION SPACE-TOW...
N.C.C-1701
NO, NO! THE MAGNETIC TOW LINES MUST HAVE TWICE THAT POWER!
WE ARE OFF TIME SCHEDULE SIX MINUTES! JETTISON THE TEN TONS OF ORE SAMPLINGS WE TOOK ON AT GALAXY T-Y!

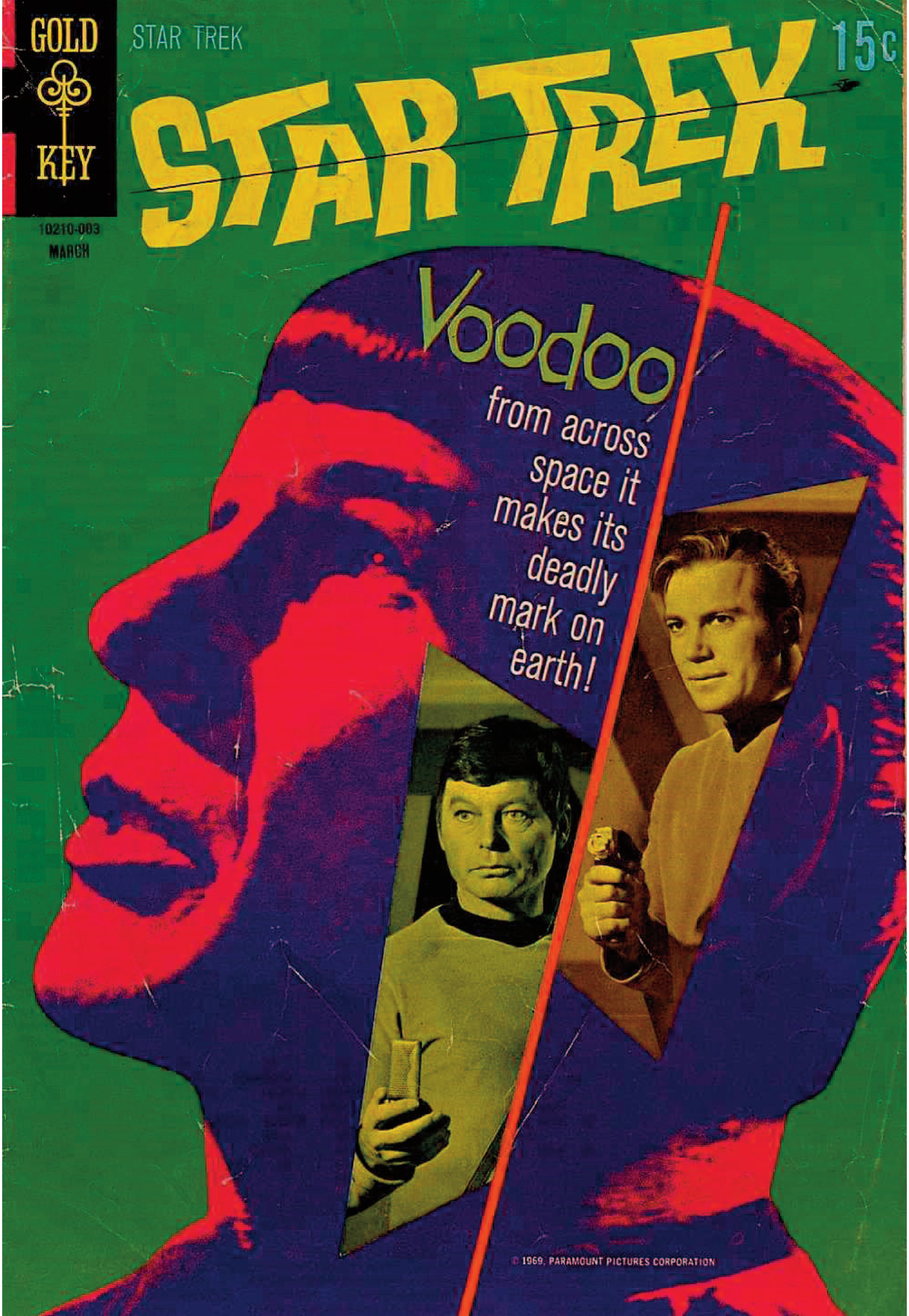
701
ORE JETTISONED, MR. SPOCK!
EXACTLY EIGHT GALAXY HOURS LATER, ALL IS READY...
CONTACT! WE'VE GOT EXACTLY FORTY MINUTES TO LASSO THAT BABY AND START ROCKETING BACK...THOSE PLANETS COLLIDE IN THIRTEEN HOURS!
AND WE'LL NEED THAT EXTRA RETURN TIME TOWING THAT GLITTERING JOB BEHIND US!
LOAD THE MAGNETIC CARTRIDGE, SCOTTY!
ON TARGET! TURN SHIP INTO A SLOW ORBIT ABOUT OBJECTIVE!
ROUND AND ROUND THE BIZARRE SPACE PARTICLE THE ENTERPRISE SLOWLY ORBITS, WEAVING BANDS OF MAGNETIC POWER...
SWOOOSH
BZZZZZZ!

FINALLY...
MAGNETIC MESH NET COMPLETE! CUT CANNON FIRE...SECURE POWER TO ANCHOR-MAGNET!
AYE, AYE, CAPTAIN!
NCC 1701
SO FAR, A-OKAY! NOW, WE'VE GOT TO EASE THE ENTERPRISE INTO SPACE-SPEED SLOWLY... A SUDDEN JAR COULD SNAP THE MAGNETIC BONDS!
ROGER, CAPTAIN! WILL DO!
FASTER...FASTER, THE ENTERPRISE MOVES WITH THE LIFE-SAVING PARTICLE IN TOW...
ALL READINGS FINE!
WE'RE DOING GREAT! INCREASE SPEED!
SLOWLY, THE FANTASTIC SHIP INCREASES SPEED ...80,000 MILES A SECOND...100,000 MILES A SECOND...110,000...
THAT'S IT! WITH TEN THOUSAND TONS IN TOW THAT'S OUR TOP SAFETY SPEED! HOLD IT RIGHT THERE!
YES SIR, CAPTAIN KIRK!
BUT THEN, THE FEARED MENACE OF THE SPACE PARTICLE ZONE APPEARS...
METEOR STORM OFF THE STARBOARD BOW!
1701

LIKE HAILSTONES FROM A SPACE HADES, THE RAIN OF STONE AND METAL STRIKES...
WE'RE ENGULFED -- CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STORM!
HURRY WITH THAT COUNTER-PRESSURE WHEEL! LOCK OFF THIS PASSAGE...
...CONTROL! GIVE US TOP SPEED! WE'VE GOT TO GAMBLE OUR WAY THROUGH THIS!
FOR THREE TERROR-STRICKEN MINUTES THE ENTERPRISE, BATTERED AND PUNCTURED, CAREENS THROUGH THE METEOR STORM, UNTIL...
WE ARE THROUGH, CAPTAIN... AND THE MAGNETIC BONDS REPULSED THE METEOR FROM THE PARTICLE... IT IS SAFE!
WHEW-W-W-W! REDUCE SPEED BEFORE WE RIP THE SHIP APART... AND SOMEBODY BREAK OUT A BARREL OF BLACK COFFEE!

THIRTEEN HOURS LATER, TARGET AND ASSIGNMENT: PREVENT PLANETARY COLLISION!..
THERE THEY ARE, CAPTAIN, PLANETS F.P.-1 AND F.P.-2-- STILL ON COLLISION COURSE!
WHAT IS THEIR SPEED? HOW MUCH TIME DO WE HAVE?
PRESENT SPEED OF PLANETS 25,000 M.P.H. EARTH MILES... INCREASING... I CALCULATE WE HAVE FOUR GALAXY MINUTES!
NO GOOD! WITH OUR TOW TONNAGE WE'RE TOO SLOW... CONTROL! FIRE AFTER-BURNERS AGAIN! THIS IS ALL OUT!
THE SHOWDOWN! WE'LL EITHER GET THERE IN TIME... OR WE'LL BE PULVERIZED BY THE MOST CATACLYSMIC EXPLOSION IN SPACE HISTORY!
WITH EXTRA SPEED FROM THE AFTER-BURNERS, THE SHIP CAREENS INTO SPACE BETWEEN THE TWO PLANETS... BUT THERE IS STILL ONE VITAL QUESTION...
WE MADE IT! BUT HOW, MR. SPOCK, WILL THE REPELLING FORCE WORK?

ABRUPTLY, THE SPACE PARTICLE IS CUT LOOSE... ITS REPULSION FORCES RADIATE OUT INTO SPACE...
PRAY, CAPTAIN KIRK... PRAY!
FOR A MOMENT, THE ON-RUSHING PLANETS ARE SLOWED. THEY SHUDDER SLIGHTLY IN THEIR DEATH PLUNGE AS THE REPELLING FORCE HITS THEM...
THEN, MAJESTICALLY, THEY BRAKE TO A HALT AND HOVER IN THE SKIES OF SPACE...
IT WORKED, MR. SPOCK! THE RAYS ARE SEPARATING THEM! HOW BAD WAS THE SHOCK TO THEM?
PROBABLY QUITE NOTICEABLE, CAPTAIN... LIKE A MODERATE EARTHQUAKE!
BUT, REMEMBER, THERE ARE NO SURFACE BUILDINGS TO TUMBLE ON EITHER PLANET! I AM QUITE CERTAIN ...THEY SURVIVED!
AND SO DID WE! THAT REPELLENT POWER SHOULD HOLD FOR CENTURIES... AND BY THAT TIME PERHAPS THE STAR SHIP ENTERPRISE WILL KNOW HOW TO REALLY SOLVE THIS PROBLEM!
PRECISELY MY THINKING, CAPTAIN!


GOLD KEY
STAR TREK
15¢
STAR TREK
10210-003
MARCH
Voodoo
from across space it makes its deadly mark on earth!
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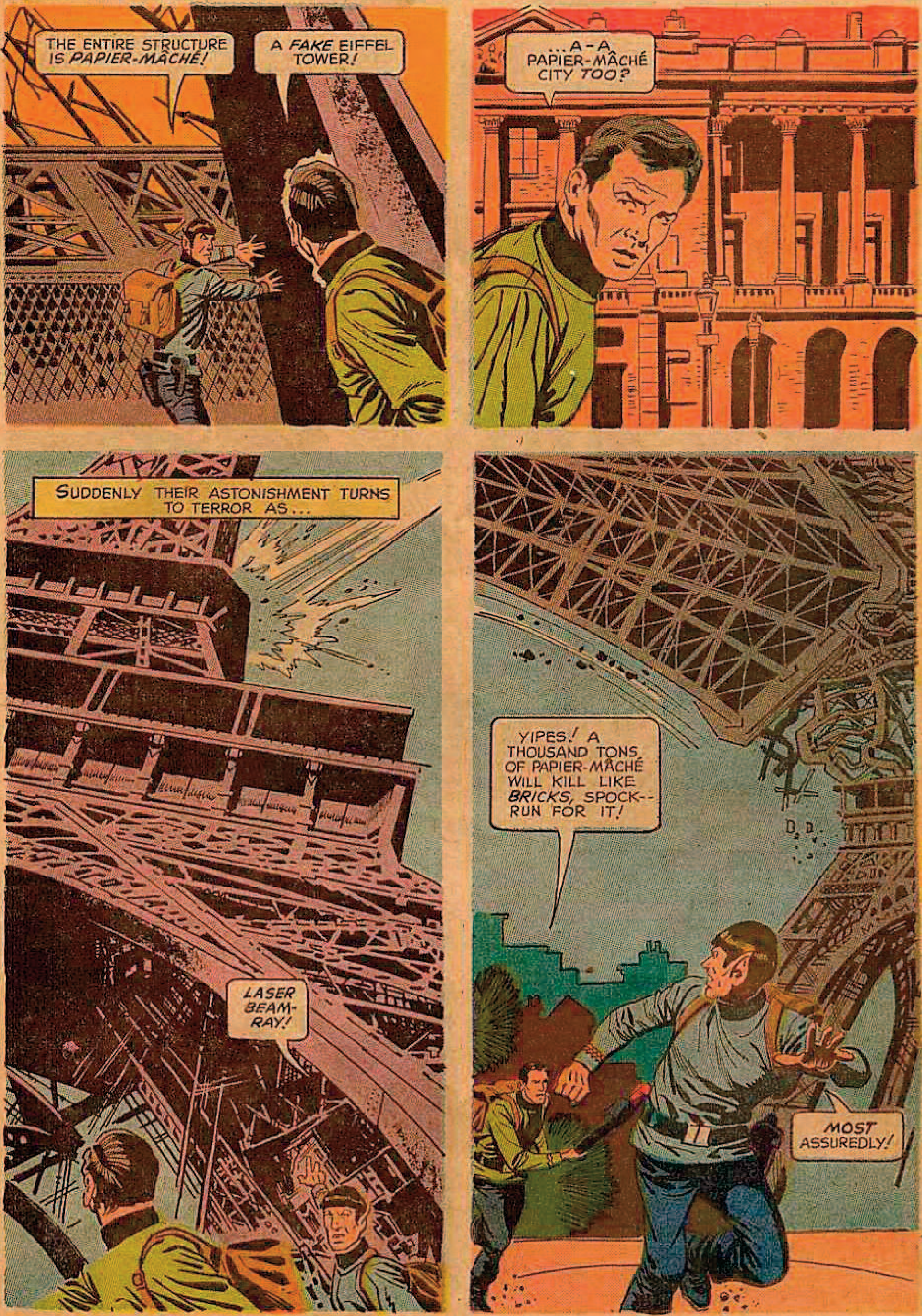
BUT IT APPARENTLY IS TRUE... FOR THERE, IN WHAT IS SUPPOSEDLY THE DEEP VOID OF A DISTANT GALAXY IS EARTH...
SUPERBLY FANTASTIC! WE COULD NOT HAVE RETURNED TOWARD EARTH... PERHAPS WE HAVE PASSED THROUGH A SPACE WARP!
A SPACE WARP! BUT OUR ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT CAN REGISTER THOSE WITH AN ALARM!
THE ONES WE HAVE REASON TO SUSPECT EXIST, CAPTAIN! THIS COULD BE ONE OF AN UNKNOWN FORCE!
WELL, WHATEVER IN BLUE BLAZES HAS HAPPENED, LET'S POUR ON THE COALS AND TAKE A FIRST HAND LOOK-SEE!

TENSE MINUTES LATER, THE ENTERPRISE CUTS HER POWER... AND AS SHE HOVERS OVER THE SURPRISING APPEARANCE OF EARTH...
WE'VE HOMED IN OVER PARIS, SPOCK-- GOOD A PLACE AS ANY TO TRANSPORT DOWN, I GUESS!
VERY WELL, CAPTAIN KIRK!
MOMENTS AFTERWARD, IN THE TRANSPORTER ROOM...
CAN'T TELL WHAT WE'LL RUN INTO DOWN THERE, DR. McCOY-- KEEP THE RADIO CLOSE!
ROGER!
AND WHEN THE PAIR HAVE MATERIALIZED NEAR THE FAMED EIFFEL TOWER...
MOST UNUSUAL ...NOT A PERSON ABOUT!
AND NOT A CAR OR BUS OR TRUCK! NOT EVEN A BIKE!
GR-GREAT NOVAS, SPOCK! COULD THERE HAVE BEEN A PROTON BOMB WAR--WHERE ONLY LIFE, NOT STRUCTURES, WERE DESTROYED BY THE TERRIBLE RAYS!
I THINK NOT...THERE WOULD BE AT LEAST SKELETONS REMAINING... AND WRECKAGE OF VEHICLES CRASHING!
SUDDENLY, MR. SPOCK'S ANALYTICAL MIND MAKES A STARTLING OBSERVATION...
CAPTAIN! THIS TOWER IS SEVERAL HUNDRED FEET SHORTER THAN THE 984-FEET RECORDED HEIGHT!
...SHADES OF VULCAN! THIS GIRDER!..

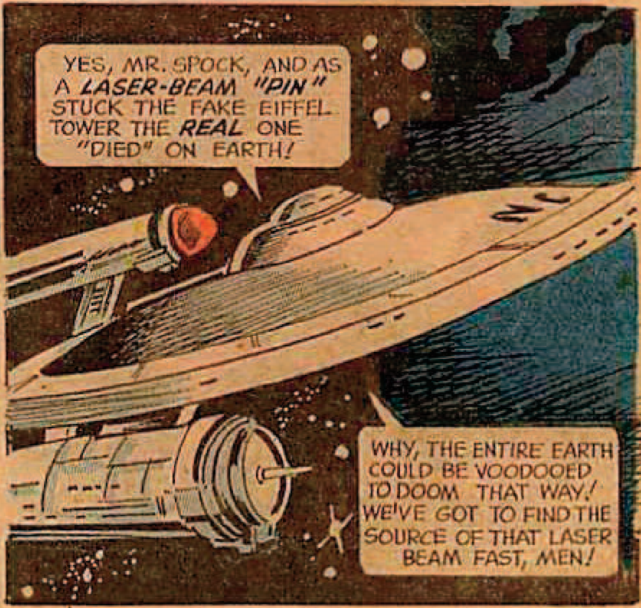

THE ENTIRE STRUCTURE IS PAPIER-MÂCHÉ!
A FAKE EIFFEL TOWER!
...A-A PAPIER-MÂCHÉ CITY TOO?
SUDDENLY THEIR ASTONISHMENT TURNS TO TERROR AS...
LASER BEAM-RAY!
YIPES! A THOUSAND TONS OF PAPIER-MÂCHÉ WILL KILL LIKE BRICKS, SPOCK--RUN FOR IT!
MOST ASSUREDLY!

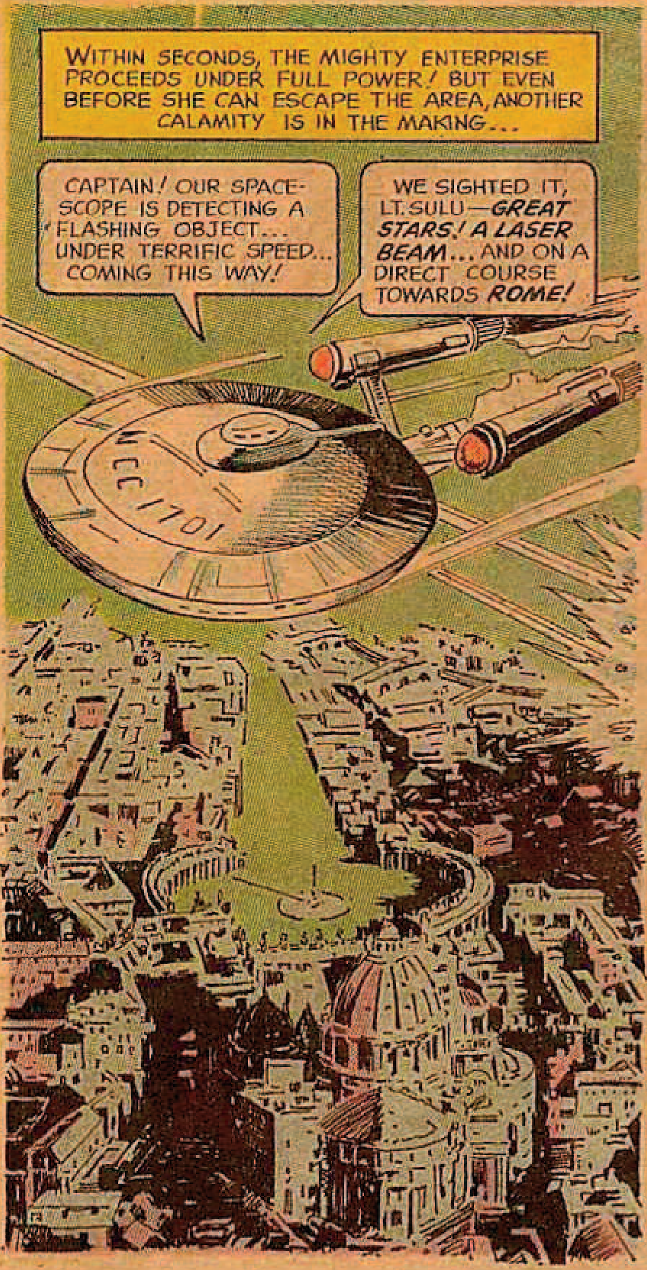
THE EIFFEL TOWER-- IT'S BEEN CUT IN TWO!
CAPTAIN KIRK! MR. SPOCK! ARE YOU SAFE?
CRAAAASH!
WE'RE A-OKAY, DR. McCOY!
MR. SPOCK... WE'RE TRAPPED IN AN EERIE, BRAIN-NUMBING MADHOUSE! ANY ANSWERS?
NOT ONE, BUT THEY HAVE TO BE HERE... SOME PLACE, CAPTAIN!
ABRUPTLY, A HOLLOW VOICE BELLOWS OVER THE PAPER PARIS...
ATTENTION, EARTHLINGS!

WELCOME TO MY PRIVATE WORLD!
WHO ARE YOU? WHAT'S ALL THIS MADNESS ABOUT? WHAT KIND OF CRAZY GAME ARE YOU PLAYING?
YOU WILL HAVE ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS... IF YOU LIVE TO HEAR THEM!
WELL, SPOCK--- WHAT DOES YOUR VULCAN MIND MAKE OF THIS?
AN OBVIOUSLY DEMENTED BEING, CAPTAIN...
BUT THE PURPOSE OF THIS DUPLICATE EARTH OF YOURS CHALLENGES MY INTELLIGENCE! WHAT PURPOSE COULD IT POSSIBLY SERVE?
SUDDENLY, A COMMUNIQUE FROM THE ENTERPRISE SHATTERS THE DRAMA...
CAPTAIN! A CONDITION RED OVER SPACE RADIO! THE CITY OF PARIS HAS BEEN THROWN INTO PANIC!
WHAT! WE'LL TRANSPORT AT ONCE BACK TO THE SHIP!
RETURNING ABOARD, THE TRIO IS SHOWN AN ASTONISHING SIGHT BY A WIDE-EYED LT. SULU...
IT'S A SHOCKER, SIR! AS YOU CAN SEE BY THIS RELAYED GALAXY RADIO PHOTOGRAPH--THE EIFFEL TOWER ON EARTH HAS COLLAPSED!

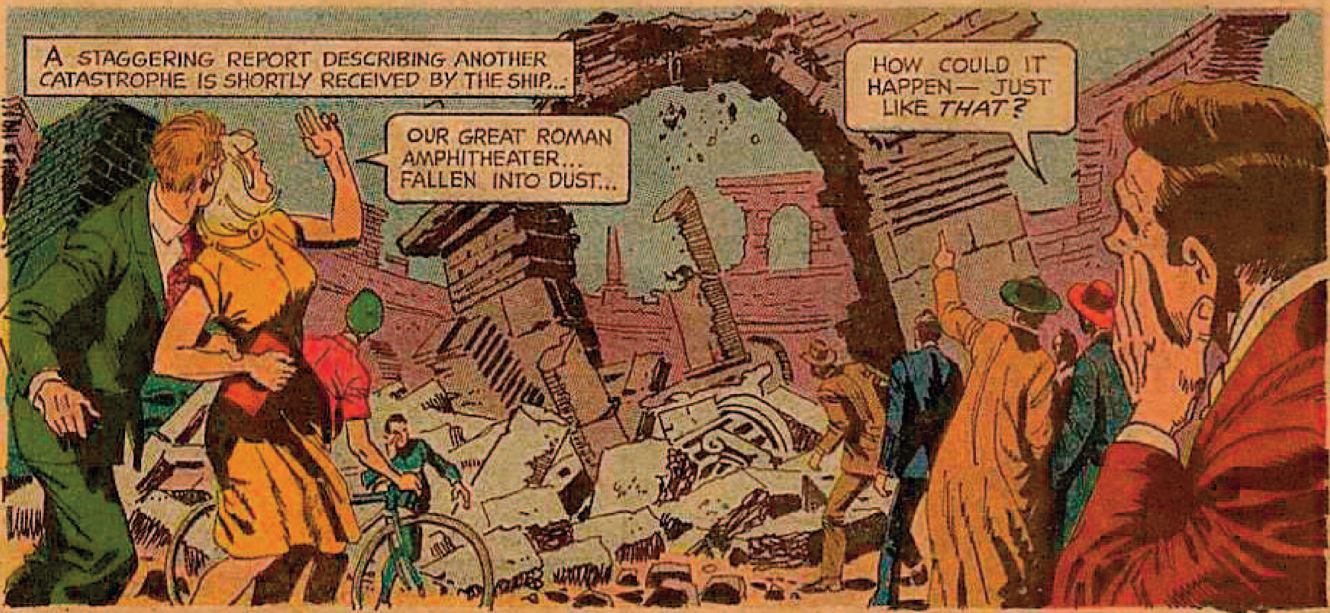
SUDDENLY, ANOTHER PHOTOGRAPH IS BEAMED ONTO THE ENTERPRISE'S SCREEN...
THE STRUCTURE SUDDENLY BUCKLED IN TWO... KILLING HUNDREDS! THE MYSTERIOUS CATASTROPHE OCCURRED AT EXACTLY 12:40 P.M....
12:40 PM EARTH TIME! THAT WAS PRECISELY THE OUTER-GALAXY TIME HERE THAT THE PAPER-MÂCHÉ TOWER TOPPLED ON US!
THEN... THERE'S A LINK BETWEEN THE TWO CALAMITIES! IT BEING MERE COINCIDENCE BORDERS ON THE... IMPOSSIBLE!

COULD IT BE SOME SORT OF WEIRD, DEEP SPACE VOODOO, I WONDER?
VOODOO? OH YES, THOSE MYSTERIOUS RITES PRACTICED BY CULTS IN WHICH THEY STICK A PIN INTO A DOLL REPRESENTING AN ENEMY... AND HE SUPPOSEDLY DIES!


YES, MR. SPOCK, AND AS A LASER-BEAM "PIN" STUCK THE FAKE EIFFEL TOWER THE REAL ONE "DIED" ON EARTH!
WHY, THE ENTIRE EARTH COULD BE VOODOOED TO DOOM THAT WAY! WE'VE GOT TO FIND THE SOURCE OF THAT LASER BEAM FAST, MEN!


WITHIN SECONDS, THE MIGHTY ENTERPRISE PROCEEDS UNDER FULL POWER! BUT EVEN BEFORE SHE CAN ESCAPE THE AREA, ANOTHER CALAMITY IS IN THE MAKING...
CAPTAIN! OUR SPACE-SCOPE IS DETECTING A FLASHING OBJECT... UNDER TERRIFIC SPEED... COMING THIS WAY!
WE SIGHTED IT, LT. SULU—GREAT STARS! A LASER BEAM... AND ON A DIRECT COURSE TOWARDS ROME!
NCC 1701

THE PAPER-MÂCHÉ COLOSSEUM... THE BEAM HAS PULVERIZED IT!
CONTACT EARTH AT ONCE--SEE IF THE COLOSSEUM IS STILL STANDING!
AYE, AYE, CAPTAIN!
KA-FUUMM!


A STAGGERING REPORT DESCRIBING ANOTHER CATASTROPHE IS SHORTLY RECEIVED BY THE SHIP...
OUR GREAT ROMAN AMPHITHEATER... FALLEN INTO DUST...
HOW COULD IT HAPPEN— JUST LIKE THAT?

THE NEWS--AND WHAT IT SIGNIFIES--PASSES THROUGH THE ENTERPRISE LIKE A SHOCK WAVE...
THE DESTRUCTION OF THE COLOSSEUM LEAVES NO ROOM FOR DOUBT, TEAM-- WE'VE GOT A FRIGHTENING VOODOO MENACE TO SMASH...
BEFORE IT SMASHES EARTH AND OUR PEOPLE TO PIECES! DID PROBE UNITS GET A FIX ON THAT BEAM?
I CAN PUT YOU RIGHT ON TARGET, SIR!
THE SHIP CUTS THROUGH THE BLACKNESS OF THE UNIVERSE...UNTIL...
THAT PLANET HAS TO BE THE LOCALE OF THE LASER BEAM--IT'S THE ONLY ONE WITHIN A MILLION MILES OF HERE...
AND WE'RE IN LUCK--THAT CLOUD OF SPACE TRASH WILL OBSCURE OUR SHIP FROM VIEW AND CONFUSE THEIR DETECTION EQUIPMENT!
WE'LL JUST EASE INTO THE CENTER OF THE DEBRIS AND USE IT AS CAMOUFLAGE...
AND THEN SPOCK, McCOY AND I WILL TRANSPORT DOWN AND DO A LITTLE SNOOPING!

AND MINUTES LATER, AS THREE FIGURES MATERIALIZE UNSEEN ON THE PLANET, THEIR EYES FALL UPON A WEIRD SIGHT.
T-THOSE BEINGS... THEY'RE HURLING NEEDLE-LIKE SPEARS INTO... HUMAN DOLLS!
YES, DOCTOR... WE'VE STUMBLED INTO AN INCREDIBLE VOODOO CIVILIZATION!
AND THAT DEADLY LASER BEAM... IT'S GOT TO BE DESTROYED BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE ...FOR PLANET EARTH!
OUR OBJECTIVE, CAPTAIN--IT COULD BE THAT GUARDED STRUCTURE OVER THERE! SHALL WE CHECK IT OUT!

FLYING BODIES CUT THE AIR SECONDS LATER--AND...
TOO BAD WE COULDN'T USE OUR PHASERS ON THESE CREEPS--BUT THE SOUND WOULD HAVE ATTRACTED THEIR PALS...
SAME DIFFERENCE ...THIS WILL PUT THE GUARDS OUT OF ACTION FOR SOME TIME! NOW LET'S HIT THAT BUILDING ENTRANCE...
THE THREE DASH UP A SPIRAL STAIRCASE AND PAUSE...
WHRREEEEE! ZIP! ZIP! ZIP!
ELECTRONIC SOUNDS! I BELIEVE WE HAVE REACHED OUR DESTINATION, CAPTAIN!
BUT THE ROOM MIGHT BE JAMMED WITH...VOODOOITES!
AND AS THE TRIO CREEP UP TO THE DOOR...
SET TIMER! IN MERE SECONDS THE EGYPTIAN SPHINX OF EARTH WILL CRUMBLE BEFORE MY POWER!
PAYDIRT! THEIR CONTROL ROOM--AND THEY'RE ABOUT TO VOODOO EARTH AGAIN... THE SPHINX!
IT'S ENTRANCE TIME! DR. McCOY--YOU'D BETTER BACK US UP OUTSIDE THE DOORWAY HERE WITH PHASER READY! MR. SPOCK AND I WILL GO AHEAD!
ROGER!
THEN...
WE'VE ONLY SECONDS TO SAVE THE SPHINX, MR. SPOCK! LET'S HIT IT!

HE'S GOING TO HIT THAT BUTTON --IT MUST BE THE LASER BEAM FIRING BUTTON!
STOP! OR WE'LL FIRE!
TOO LATE!
AND AN INSTANT LATER, IN EGYPT...
RUN FOR YOUR LIVES! THE SPHINX IS TOPPLING!
MAY ALLAH SPARE US...

AND BACK IN THE CONTROL ROOM ON THE AWESOME VOODOO PLANET...
THE SPHINX IS DESTROYED!
WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT THAT NOW-- BUT THIS MAD FIEND'S GOT A LOT OF EXPLAINING TO DO! TAKE HIM!
YOU'LL "TAKE" NO ONE, YOU IDIOTS! LOOK THERE!
TWO VOODOOITES... CLUTCHING DOLLS OF US, CAPTAIN...
AND ABOUT TO PLUNGE NEEDLES INTO THEM!
A-A SHARP PAIN... IN MY SIDE...
MY STOMACH... BURNING UP!
HA, HA, HA... HO, HO!
CONTINUED...

STAR TREK CHAPTER II
THE VOODOO PLANET
C-COUNT DRESSLER!
AS KIRK AND SPOCK INVADE THE CONTROL ROOM OF THE VOODOO PLANET NEEDLES ARE STUCK INTO DOLLS BEARING THEIR RESEMBLANCE ...AND A FLOOD OF PAIN STRIKES THEM DOWN!
THEY ARE SUBDUED! STRIP THEM OF THEIR WEAPONS AND ANY PERSONAL EFFECTS--- THEN REMOVE THE VOODOO PINS!
GOOD! NOW PLACE THEM IN THE PRISONER CONFINEMENT CAGE!
G-GREAT NOVAS! DRESSLER, THE MAD RULER OF A TINY KINGDOM ON EARTH ... UP HERE!

SO THIS IS WHERE YOU VANISHED TO WHEN HALF THE WORLD WAS HUNTING YOU DOWN, DRESSLER!
PRECISELY! IT SUITED MY PURPOSES TO FLEE EARTH AT THE TIME!
WELL, AT LEAST YOUR INSANE PLAN OF DOMINATING THE WORLD FROM YOUR LITTLE KINGDOM WAS SMASHED!
YOU WERE THE ONLY FANATIC IN POWER WHO SOUGHT TO MAKE HYDROGEN BOMBS WHEN ALL EARTH WAS NEGOTIATING TO BAN THEM!
HOW DID YOU MANAGE IT, DRESSLER? THE LAST I HEARD, THOUSANDS OF TROOPS WERE CLOSING IN ON YOUR KINGDOM!
I WAS QUITE PREPARED, CAPTAIN KIRK!
"WHEN I REALIZED THE ODDS WERE HOPELESS, I MERELY TRIGGERED MY EMERGENCY PLAN— ROCKET ESCAPE INTO DEEP SPACE..."
"I SOUGHT REFUGE ON ONE OF THE PLANETS HOSTILE TO EARTH'S WAYS! IT WAS MERELY GOOD FORTUNE I CAME UPON THE VOODOO PLANET HERE..."
FRIENDLY SPACE CRUISER REQUESTS LANDING PERMISSION!

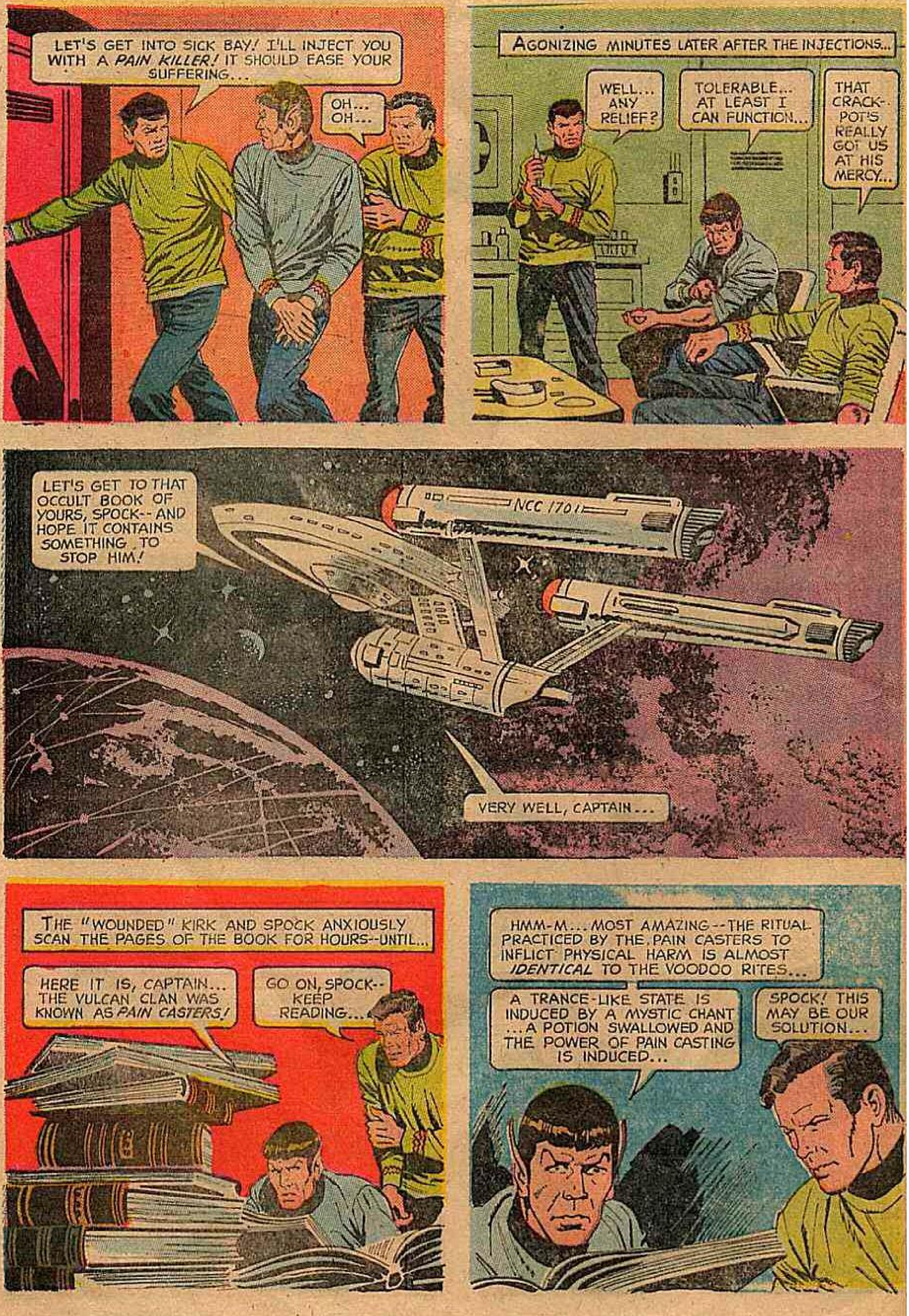
IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE I MASTERED THE MINDS OF THESE DOLTS, STOLE THEIR OCCULT SECRETS AND BECAME THEIR LEADER!
BUT OBSERVE... YOU ARE JUST IN TIME FOR A DEMONSTRATION!
THEN...
WHA...? HE SEEMS TO BE THROWING HIMSELF INTO A TRANCE OF SOME KIND!
UNDOUBTEDLY A RITUAL NECESSARY TO PERFORM THE VOODOO ACT, CAPTAIN!
ABRUPTLY, A PICTURE FLASHES ON THE SCREEN...
YAA... EEEOOO ...KYA... KYA...
A TV PICTURE OF THE LEANING TOWER OF PISA!
OBSERVING HOW THIS CRIMINAL INDUCES VOODOOISM CAN BE TO OUR ADVANTAGE!
AND NOW HE'S DRINKING A GREEN LIQUID!
HMM... THE LIQUID OBVIOUSLY ACTIVATES HIS VOODOO POWERS IN SOME WAY!

IN A HYPNOTIC STATE, DRESSLER HEADS FOR THE LASER BEAM GUN...
HE HAS MADE HIMSELF INTO A MAN POSSESSED!
AND HE'S HEADING FOR THE LASER GUN... TO BLAST THE PISA TOWER ON HIS MOCK EARTH, NO DOUBT!
A MOMENT LATER, A DEADLY LASER BEAMS STREAKS FROM THE VOODOO PLANET THROUGH SPACE...
AND A MICRO SECOND LATER, AS THE DUMMY PISA TOWER IS DESTROYED...
WHOOSH
TH-THAT'S IT! THE *ONE* AND *ONLY* LEANING TOWER OF PISA ON EARTH GONE ON A *VOODOO WIND!*
YOU *SEE*, CAPTAIN KIRK... MR. SPOCK! I HAVE *NOT* LOST! YOU WILL STAY HERE AS MY HOSTAGES...
... AND INFORM EARTH I WILL VOODOO IT TO *UTTER DESTRUCTION* UNLESS I AM GRANTED AMNESTY TO RETURN A FREE MAN!

YOU ARE A LITTLE LATE, DR. McCOY! KINDLY EMPLOY YOUR PHASER!
A PLEASURE, MR. SPOCK! STAND BACK AND I'LL BLAST THOSE BARS!
THE RADIO TRANSMITTER, MEN--WE'VE GOT TO BUST OUR WAY THROUGH THOSE VOODOOITES TO GET AT IT! MOVE QUICKLY!
THEN, WHEN THE PHASER MELTS ENOUGH OF THE BARS TO FORM AN EXIT...
NOW!
TH-THEY'RE FREE!
HOLD THEM OFF...WHILE I GRAB THE RADIO!

DESPERATELY, DR. McCOY AND SPOCK HOLD OFF THE VOODOOITES, UNTIL...
DOWN THEM, YOU DOLTS--BEAT THEM TO THE GROUND!
I HAVE IT, MEN--BUT WE'VE GOT TO CLEAR THESE CHARACTERS FROM THE AREA...
...OR THE PACK OF THEM WILL BE TRANSPORTED UP TO THE ENTERPRISE WITH US WHEN I RADIO IN!
FINALLY, FOR A FLEETING MOMENT THE THREE ARE FREE...
THIS IS IT! LEAP TOWARD ME... HURRY!
CAPTAIN KIRK TO ENTERPRISE! TRANSPORT US BACK... IMMEDIATELY! RED ALERT!

VANISHING ...BEFORE MY VERY EYES! INCREDIBLE!
BUT YOU HAVEN'T SEEN THE LAST OF US, DRESSLER --WE'RE GOING TO STOP YOUR MAD SCHEME...ONE WAY OR THE OTHER!
AS THE TRIO MATERIALIZES IN THE TRANSPORTER CHAMBER ABOARD THE ENTERPRISE...
WHAT CAN WE DO, CAPTAIN? IF WE RAY-ATTACK DRESSLER'S LAIR WE'RE BOUND TO KILL THOSE MISLED VOODOOITES!
YES...THAT'S OUT! BUT WE'VE GOT TO COME UP WITH SOME-THING -- AND FAST!
PERHAPS IF I STUDY MY BOOK ON VULCAN OCCULT HISTORY IT MAY SUGGEST A SOLUTION, CAPTAIN...
I SEEM TO RECALL A STRANGE CLAN THAT PRACTICED SUCH BIZARRE POWERS CENTURIES AGO!
GOOD IDEA, SPOCK! WE'VE GOT TO PLAY ALL THE ANGLES... O-OH! MY ARM!
MY LEFT LEG... A SEVERE SHOOTING PAIN!
DRESSLER! HE MUST BE PLAYING PINS AND NEEDLES WITH YOUR VOODOO DOLLS! CAPTAIN...SPOCK-- HOW BAD IS IT?
I-I DON'T THINK I CAN STAND IT!
UNBEARABLE!

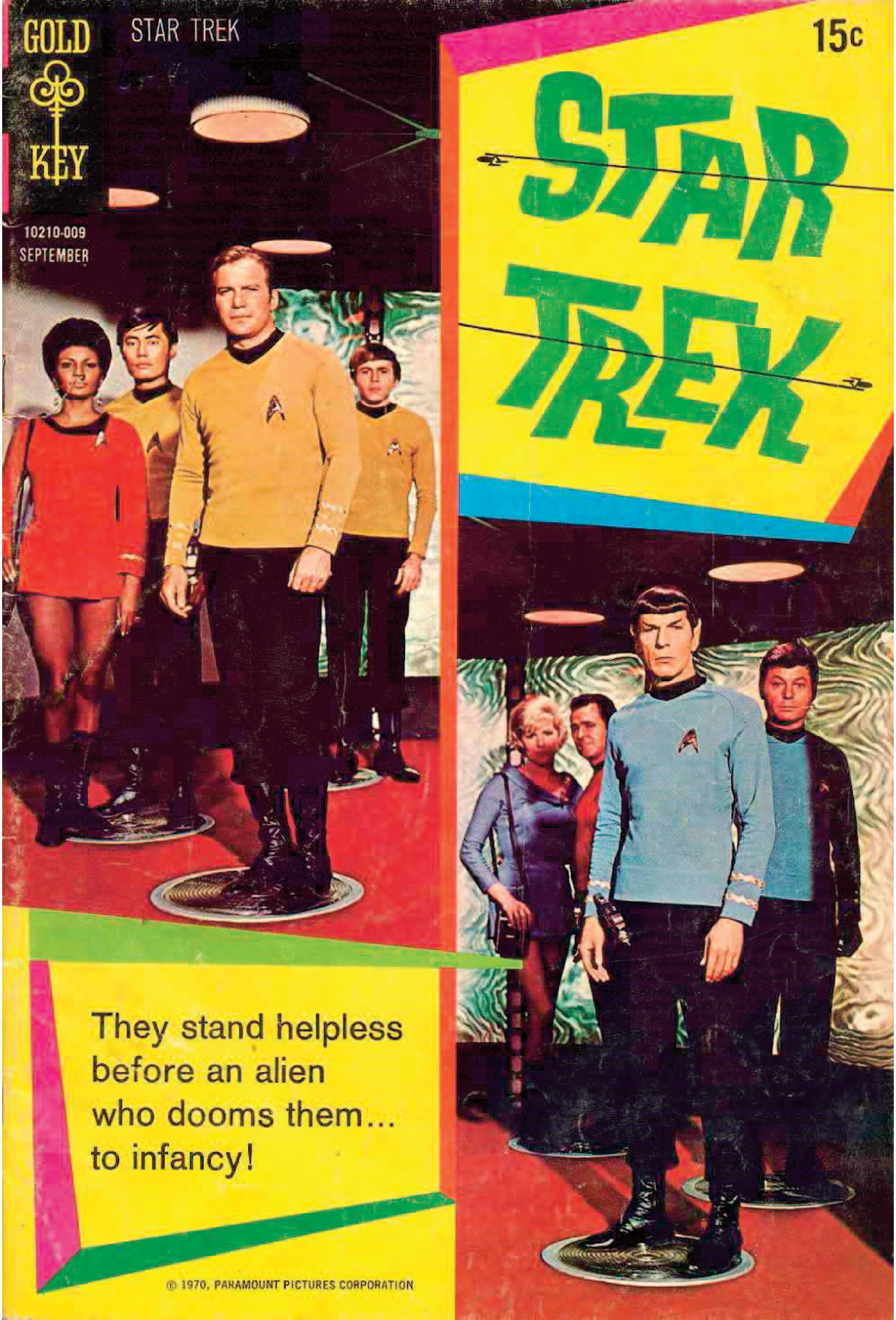

LET'S GET INTO SICK BAY! I'LL INJECT YOU WITH A *PAIN KILLER!* IT SHOULD EASE YOUR SUFFERING...
OH... OH...
AGONIZING MINUTES LATER AFTER THE INJECTIONS...
WELL... ANY RELIEF?
TOLERABLE... AT LEAST I CAN FUNCTION...
THAT CRACK-POT'S REALLY GOT US AT HIS MERCY...
LET'S GET TO THAT OCCULT BOOK OF YOURS, SPOCK-- AND HOPE IT CONTAINS SOMETHING TO STOP HIM!
NCC 1701
VERY WELL, CAPTAIN...
THE "WOUNDED" KIRK AND SPOCK ANXIOUSLY SCAN THE PAGES OF THE BOOK FOR HOURS--UNTIL...
HERE IT IS, CAPTAIN... THE VULCAN CLAN WAS KNOWN AS *PAIN CASTERS!*
GO ON, SPOCK-- KEEP READING...
HMM-M... MOST AMAZING--THE RITUAL PRACTICED BY THE PAIN CASTERS TO INFLICT PHYSICAL HARM IS ALMOST *IDENTICAL* TO THE VOODOO RITES...
A TRANCE-LIKE STATE IS INDUCED BY A MYSTIC CHANT ...A POTION SWALLOWED AND THE POWER OF PAIN CASTING IS INDUCED...
SPOCK! THIS MAY BE OUR SOLUTION...

IF WE COULD DUPLICATE THE PAIN CASTERS' POWERS WE COULD TACKLE DRESSLER WITH HIS OWN WEAPON -- VOODOOISM!
DOES IT MENTION THE INGREDIENTS OF THE POTION?
YES, BUT THE HERBS AND CHEMICALS REQUIRED CAN BE FOUND ONLY ON VULCAN...
HOWEVER, I MAY BE ABLE TO PRODUCE SYNTHETIC INGREDIENTS!
THEN LET'S GET TO THE LAB AND GO TO WORK!
AS THE PAIN CONTINUES TO WRACK THEIR LIMBS, KIRK AND SPOCK FRANTICALLY WORK -- UNTIL FINALLY...
THIS SHOULD DO IT... BUT I CAN PROMISE NOTHING, CAPTAIN!
PUT IT TO THE TEST, SPOCK...
A MOMENT LATER, A KNEELING DR. SPOCK UTTERS STRANGE WORDS...
KA-LOOO... ZHAAAAAA... BROOOO...
IT'S GOT TO WORK, McCOY-- IT'S THE ONLY WAY WE HAVE FOR DEALING WITH THAT MADMAN...
HE'S DRINKING THE POTION! WE'LL SOON KNOW THE ANSWER!
I'VE GOT MY FINGERS CROSSED...

SUDDENLY, THE TENSENESS IS BROKEN AS...
CAPTAIN! THE PAIN IN MY LEG... IT'S GONE! THIS MEANS I POSSESS THE POWERS OF THE PAIN CASTERS...
HURRY... PERFORM THE RITUAL AS I DID AND RID YOURSELF OF YOUR PAIN!
AND AFTER THE CAPTAIN PERFORMS THE RITUAL...
NO MORE PAIN... WHAT A RELIEF! AND NOW INTO ACTION...
WE'VE GOT TO RETURN TO THE PLANET... DESTROY THAT LASER BEAM AND DEAL WITH DRESSLER! ONLY THIS TIME WE CAN MATCH HIS VOODOO WEAPON WITH PAIN CASTING!
I HAVE AN IDEA HOW THAT CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED, CAPTAIN--BUT I WILL REQUIRE A FEW MINUTES...
JOIN ME IN THE TRANSPORTER CHAMBER...
SHORTLY...
REMEMBER, WE WANT TO MATERIALIZE RIGHT IN DRESSLER'S LAB!
YES SIR!
AND AS THE MATERIALIZING FORMS OF THE CAPTAIN AND SPOCK APPEAR IN DRESSLER'S LABORATORY...
YOU TWO... BACK AGAIN, EH? I DON'T KNOW WHY YOU'RE NOT IN UTTER PAIN...
BUT THIS TIME I SHALL KILL YOU WITH MY VOODOO POWERS!
DON'T COUNT ON IT, DRESSLER!

TERROR CROSSES THE FACE OF THE CRIMINAL AN INSTANT LATER AS...
I-I PIERCED THE HEAD OF YOUR DOLL WITH MY PIN AND YOU STILL LIVE, KIRK! I'M... POWERLESS!
YOUR CAUSE IS HOPELESS, DRESSLER--YOUR DAYS OF BLACKMAILING EARTH ARE OVER...
FOR YOU SEE, WE NOW POSSESS THE SAME OCCULT POWERS YOU HAVE--AND WE'RE GOING TO GIVE YOU A SAMPLE...
PRICK A SHOULDER OF THE DRESSLER DOLL YOU MADE AND LET HIM KNOW HOW IT FEELS, SPOCK...
A PLEASURE, CAPTAIN...
SPOCK! IT HAD NO AFFECT ON HIM! I DON'T UNDERSTAND...
WE WEREN'T THINKING, CAPTAIN! DRESSLER IS IMMUNE TO OUR PAIN POWERS BECAUSE THE VOODOO POTION HE TOOK IS STILL IN HIS SYSTEM...
JUST AS WE NEUTRALIZED HIS VOODOO POWERS AFTER WE SWALLOWED OUR POTION!
WE MUST OVERTAKE DRESSLER, CAPTAIN! IF WE CAN GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO HIM WE CAN TRANSPORT HIM UP TO THE ENTERPRISE AS OUR PRISONER...
BUT FIRST WE'VE GOT TO KNOCK THAT LASER BEAM OUT!
BOOOM
OUTSIDE, AS KIRK AND SPOCK ATTEMPT TO RUN DOWN THE CRIMINAL...
GUARDS! GUARDS! SEIZE THESE ENEMIES OF OURS--CUT THEM DOWN!
WE'RE NOT CLOSE ENOUGH TO TRANSPORT DRESSLER TO THE SHIP...AND THOSE GUARDS WILL BE ON US IN SECONDS...

SUDDENLY THE UNEXPECTED HAPPENS...
LOOK! DRESSLER'S STOPPED IN HIS TRACKS...AND HE'S CLUTCHING HIS SHOULDER AS IF IN PAIN!
OUR PAIN CASTING IS AFFECTING HIM! NOW I UNDERSTAND...
THE POTION THAT PROTECTED HIM FROM OUR POWERS HAS WORN OFF...HE'S NO LONGER IMMUNE...
AND NOW HE'S FEELING THE EFFECT OF THE PIN JAB WE GAVE HIS DOLL!
WELL, LET'S GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO TRANSPORT HIM TO THE SHIP BEFORE ONE OF THE VOODOO RAY BLASTS CALL US BY NAME!
A MOMENT LATER, KIRK RADIOS FOR THE TRANSPORTER BEAM AND...
WHEW! THAT WAS CLOSE-- WE'RE GETTING OUT OF HERE JUST IN THE NICK OF TIME!
AND ABOARD THE STAR SPACESHIP ENTERPRISE...
I SUPPOSE A QUICK TRIAL AND EXECUTION WILL BE MY FATE...
WE HAVE BETTER PLANS FOR YOU, COUNT DRESSLER-- A FATE BEFITTING YOUR EVIL!
WE HAVE A PLANET IN MIND FOR YOU--ONE ON WHICH YOU CAN SUSTAIN YOURSELF BUT WHERE THERE IS NO LIVING BEING YOU CAN HARM!
A-A PLANETARY PRISON...I'LL GO MAD!
YOU MIGHT CALL IT SOLITARY CONFINEMENT, DRESSLER!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SEPTEMBER
STAR TREK
They stand helpless before an alien who dooms them... to infancy!
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CAPTAIN'S LOG, STAR DATE 31:09.5
Enterprise under full power in Galaxy Zebrant to investigate the sighting of an uncharted planet. All systems operational...
WELL, MR. SPOCK, WHAT DOES OUR SCANNER HAVE TO TELL US--ANY SIGNS OF LIFE ON THAT MYSTERIOUS SPHERE?
NEGATIVE, CAPTAIN! HOWEVER, I HAVE NOT COMPLETED THE SCAN!
THERE IS STILL THE TELESCOPIC VIEWING STAGE I MUST PERFORM! AFTER THAT...
WHAAAAA... EEEEEEE...
CAPTAIN KIRK... SPOCK! THAT WEIRD SOUND-- WHAT IS IT?
...WHAT DID WE HIT...A-A SPACE WALL?
MOST UNLIKELY... CAPTAIN...
KA-BRAAANG!
OUTSIDE, AN AWESOME FORCE IS UNLEASHING ITS POWER ON THE ENTERPRISE...
CUT NUMBER TWO ENGINE...SHE'S TAKING A BATTERING...MAY EXPLODE...
AYE, AYE, SIR!

THE MYSTERIOUS ATTACK ENDS ABRUPTLY, AND A GRIM DAMAGE REPORT IS GIVEN...
TROUBLE, CAPTAIN! WE CAN REPAIR THE ENGINE --BUT WHATEVER HIT US BURNED OUT EVERY FILAMENT PART!
BUT SCOTTY, THE ENGINE WON'T OPERATE WITHOUT THOSE FILAMENTS!
WE'VE GOT AN AMPLE SUPPLY OF FILAMENTS IN STORAGE! BREAK THEM OUT...
BUT... THAT'S JUST IT, SIR--I WENT TO STORAGE AND FOUND EVERY LAST ONE OF THEM DISINTEGRATED!
AN UNKNOWN FORCE... POWERFUL ENOUGH TO BATTER OUR SHIP TO PIECES... MERELY KNOCKS OUT AN ENGINE AND PARTS, LEAVING US CRIPPLED IN SPACE! WHY?
THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION... BUT EVEN IF WE KNEW THE ANSWER...
OBVIOUSLY, WE MUST FIND A DEPOSIT OF THE RARE ZUTOTANIUM METAL FROM WHICH THE FILAMENTS ARE MADE...
I "READ" YOU, MR. SPOCK! I'LL TRANSPORT AN ENGINEERING TEAM TO THE SURFACE OF THAT UNCHARTED PLANET TO TAKE SAMPLES AT ONCE!
SHORTLY, ANXIOUS EYES OBSERVE THE BODIES OF TWO MEN FADING FROM VIEW IN THE TRANSPORTER ROOM...
WELL, THERE GO OUR ENGINEERS! THIS IS ONE WHALE OF A LONG SHOT, SPOCK...
AND ONE THAT HAD BETTER PAY OFF, CAPTAIN--OR WE MAY BE STRANDED HERE FOREVER!

A MICRO-SECOND LATER, SPACE ORE EXPERTS BURNS AND LANE MATERIALIZE ON THE UNCHARTED PLANET...
THERE'S A GOOD ROCK OUTCROPPING TO START OUR ORE SAMPLING WITH!
ROGER!
FOR AN HOUR THE EXPERTS CHIP AWAY AT DIFFERENT SECTIONS OF THE SPACE ROCK. THEN...
BURNS TO SHIP! FIRST SAMPLES N.G.— TESTING REMAINING ROCKS!
CLICK CLICK
HOT NOVAS! WE'VE GOT IT--THESE CHUNKS ARE CHOCK FULL OF ZUTOTANIUM, CAPTAIN KIRK!
BUT SUDDENLY, AS KIRK REPLIES FROM THE ENTERPRISE...
GOOD! PREPARE SAMPLES FOR TRANSPORTATION BACK AND KEEP DIGGING...
BURNS...LANE! WHAT WAS THAT SOUND? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
THEY ARE OUT OF SCANNER VIEW BEHIND THE LEDGE, CAPTAIN!
TENSION RISES IN THE ENTERPRISE AS LONG SECONDS PASS WITHOUT A RESPONSE FROM THE PAIR, AND FINALLY...
ENTERPRISE TO ORE EXPEDITION TEAM! COME IN! COME IN!
LISTEN!

GOLLY GEE! THAT'S FUN...LET ME PLAY TOO, ANDY!
WH-WHAT ARE THEY DOING?
NO! THESE ARE MY ROCKS! YOU GET YOUR OWN ROCKS TO PLAY WITH!
TH-THOSE IDIOTS ARE CLOWNING AROUND DOWN THERE! WHY, I'LL...
WAIT, CAPTAIN...
I AM SURE THEY ARE NOT JOKING, SIR! THEY COULDN'T POSSIBLY CHANGE THE REGISTER OF THEIR VOICES SO STRANGELY! I AM AFRAID SOMETHING HAS AFFECTED THEIR BODIES!
YES...LET'S GET DOWN THERE FAST!
AND SHORTLY, AS THE TRIO MATERIALIZES BELOW...
WHERE IN FLYING ASTEROIDS ARE THEY?
WHAAA? I-I SEE IT...BUT I DON'T BELIEVE IT! CAPTAIN KIRK...MR. SPOCK! L-LOOK HERE!
HI, DADDY KIRK AND UNCLE SPOCK!
ARE YOU GOING TO PLAY ROCK PILE WITH US?

TAKE US FOR A RIDE IN THE BIG SHIP PLEASE, HUH?
CH-CHILDREN! BOTH OF THEM TURNED INTO KIDS!
AN INCREDIBLE TRANSFORMATION! THEY SEEM TO HAVE RETAINED THEIR MEMORIES, BUT IN CHILD-LIKE FASHION!
SUDDENLY, AS KIRK STARTS TO RADIO THE ENTERPRISE...
KIRK TO ENTERPRISE...OOMPH!
DOWN, CAPTAIN!
ZAAP!
ABRUPTLY, THE THREE RACE FOR CONCEALMENT FROM THE DEADLY RAYS...
THERE ARE OUR ENEMIES...TWO OF THEM... FIRING RAYS FROM A MACHINE MOUNTED ON A TRIPOD!
THAT CAVE! HURRY!
ZAP! ZAP!
McCOY'S HIT!
HE'S...DE-AGING, CAPTAIN KIRK!
H-HE'S BEING TURNED INTO A TEEN-AGER!

LET'S GET HIM INSIDE BEFORE THOSE CHARACTERS MAKE HIM ANY YOUNGER, SPOCK!
HOW DO YOU FEEL, DR. McCOY? DO YOU HAVE POSSESSION OF YOUR MENTAL FACULTIES?
I'M FIT AS A FIDDLE AND READY TO ROCKET, JIMSY!
GET CONTROL OF YOURSELF, BONES! YOU'RE A TOP-FLIGHT SPACE MEDIC... NOT A TEENAGE KID!
THAT WON'T HELP, CAPTAIN! WE'RE DEALING WITH A FIFTEEN YEAR-OLD MIND NOW!
WE MUST GAIN CONTROL OF THAT AGE-RAY FOR TWO REASONS! FIRST, TO TRY AND REVERSE THE AGE PROCESS AND SAVE OUR MEN, AND SECOND SO THAT WE CAN CONTINUE MINING FOR ORE!
OF COURSE, SPOCK!
QUICKLY, BURNS AND LANE ARE JOINED BY DR. McCOY AND...
KIRK TO ENTERPRISE! FIRE TRANSPORTER BEAM FIVE YARDS NORTH OF MY POSITION! WE ARE SENDING UP CASUALTIES! EXPLANATION FOLLOWS! BEAM AWAY!

MOMENTS LATER, AS THE CAPTAIN'S ORDER IS CARRIED OUT...
THE ENTERPRISE CREW IS IN FOR QUITE A SHOCK WHEN THEY OBSERVE WHAT MATERIALIZES IN THE TRANSPORTER ROOM, CAPTAIN...
YOU CAN BET ON IT, MR. SPOCK! LET'S MOVE!
THE PAIR MOVE CAUTIOUSLY UP THE MOUNTAIN SIDE, UTILIZING THE COVER OF ROCKS AND SHADOWS FOR CONCEALMENT...
SO FAR...SO GOOD! WE'RE NEARLY HALF WAY TO THE TOP!
BUT OUR NEXT MOVE WILL BE A *DANGEROUS* ONE, CAPTAIN--FOR OUR NEAREST COVER IS UP AHEAD... ACROSS THAT OPEN PATCH OF GROUND!
WELL, WE'VE GOT TO TAKE A SHOT AT IT, SPOCK! I'LL GO FIRST...YOU HOLD THE FORT!
AS YOU SAY, CAPTAIN! GOOD LUCK!
BUT LUCK IS NOT TO BE WITH THE CAPTAIN--FOR AS HE BOLTS ACROSS THE CLEARING...
THE CAPTAIN...HE HAS BEEN HIT! WHAT INCREDIBLE AGE REVERSAL WILL *HE* EXPERIENCE?
YI!
SUCCESS AT LAST...HO... HO...
THE ALIENS...SPEAKING IN THE INTERPLANETARY SPACE LANGUAGE *ESPERANTA!* BUT WHY ARE THEY REJOICING?

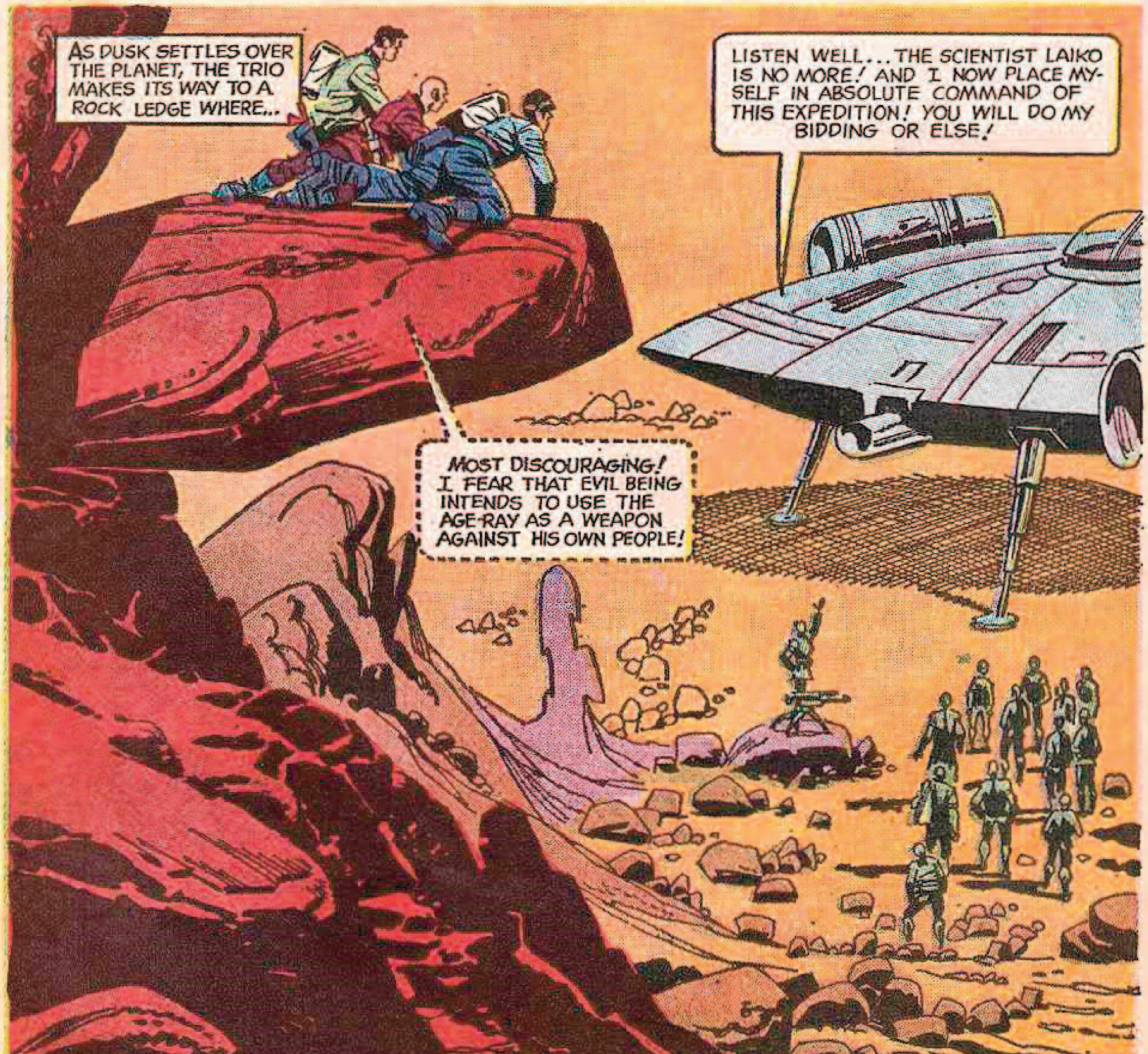
OBVIOUSLY, KIRK HASN'T EXPERIENCED ANY AGE TRANSFORMATION --THE RAY DIDN'T AFFECT HIM!
CAPTAIN! WE MUST GET BACK TO COVER AT ONCE ...BEFORE THEY BLAST AWAY AT US AGAIN!
I'M STILL A LITTLE LIGHT IN THE HEAD-- BUT DO YOU SEE WHAT I SEE UP THERE, SPOCK?
YES...THE TWO HOSTILE ALIENS, CAPTAIN!
BUT THEY'RE GOING AT ONE ANOTHER, SPOCK... HAVING A FREE-FOR-ALL! WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF IT?
INSUFFICIENT DATA TO SPECULATE, CAPTAIN! BUT IT IS TO OUR ADVANTAGE!
AS LONG AS THOSE TWO ALIENS ARE ENGAGED IN COMBAT THEY CAN HARDLY FIRE THEIR AGE-RAY MACHINE AT US!..
OH, OH...LOOKS LIKE COMPANY IS DROPPING IN ON US...
THEY'VE BEEN PLAYING KING OF THE MOUNTAIN... AND HERE COMES THE LOSER!
YAAAA!

AND AFTER THE BATTERED BODY OF THE FALLEN ALIEN ROLLS TO A STOP AT THE BASE OF THE MOUNTAIN...
THAT TRIGGER-HAPPY CHARACTER UP THERE IS REALLY OUT TO GET US!
I AM MOST ANXIOUS TO QUESTION THIS ALIEN, CAPTAIN --THAT PHENOMENAL AGE-RAY MACHINE INTRIGUES ME!
ZAAAP
ZAAAP
ZAAAP
ZAAAP
A FEW MINUTES LATER, WHEN THE ALIEN REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS...
...SO YOU'RE A SCIENTIST NAMED LAIKO FROM THE GALAXY TRANN! NOW FILL US IN ON THE DETAILS!
WE WERE ON AN EXPLORATION MISSION TO THIS GALAXY WHEN ENGINE FAILURE FORCED US TO CRASH LAND...
OUR FUTURE DID, INDEED, APPEAR GRIM..."
WE CANNOT RESTORE ENGINE POWER! I FEAR WE WILL ALL BE STRANDED ON THIS DESOLATE PLANET FOREVER!
PERHAPS NOT, CAPTAIN! I HAVE A THOUGHT IN MIND! COME, KOOBA...I MAY BE ABLE TO BUILD A MACHINE TO RESTORE POWER TO THE ENGINES!
"I LABORED FOR MANY SUNS IN THE SHIP'S MACHINE SHOP--UNTIL FINALLY...
KOOBA! WHAT IS WRONG?
I-I AM LOSING MY FOOTING...
MY POWER ENERGIZER MACHINE ...IT HAS ACCIDENTALLY FIRED!
KA-ZAAP

"THEN, OUR EYES FELL ON A MOST INCREDIBLE SIGHT..."
OBSERVE! OUR PET... THE RAY HAS TRANSFORMED IT INTO A-A PUP!
MOST UNEXPECTED! BUT DO YOU ALL REALIZE WHAT THIS MAY MEAN?
WITH A FEW ADJUSTMENTS ON THE MACHINE I MAY BE ABLE TO "FREEZE" OUR BODIES IN AN AGELESS STATE UNTIL THE SHIP IS REPAIRED ...OR WE ARE RESCUED!
BUT THERE WAS ONE OBVIOUS PROBLEM!-- WHO COULD WE USE TO TEST THE MACHINE ON? THERE MIGHT BE UNFORESEEN ANSWERS!
THINGS ARE BEGINNING TO ADD UP...
WHEN YOU SPOTTED OUR SPACESHIP YOU CRIPPLED IT WITH THE IDEA OF USING US AS GUINEA PIGS FOR YOUR AGE-RAY MACHINE...
HMM-M...THEN YOU WERE RUNNING TESTS ON THE MACHINE WHEN YOU RAY-BLASTED OUR MEN...
OUR ENGINEERS BURNS AND LANE WERE HIT WITH AN OVER-CHARGE WHICH REDUCED THEM TO CHILDREN...
A LESSER CHARGE HIT McCOY TRANS-FORMING HIM INTO A TEEN-AGER... BUT YOU WANTED YOUR MACHINE TO FREEZE YOU IN THE EXACT AGE YOU WERE IN!
TRUE! FOR ALTHOUGH THE SUBJECT RETAINS MOST OF HIS ADULT KNOWLEDGE WHEN YOUNGER, HE DOES NOT HAVE THE MENTAL CAPACITY TO DEFINE IT PROPERLY...
OH, OH... I SEE TROUBLE...

YOUR SIDEKICK KOOBA --HE'S TAKING OFF WITH THE MACHINE! WHY DID HE ATTACK YOU UP THERE, ANYWAY?
I CANNOT SAY! BUT HE IS MOVING IN THE DIRECTION OF OUR ENCAMPMENT!

AND IT'S A CINCH HE'S UP TO NO GOOD...
LET'S MOVE--WE'RE ALL AT THAT CHARACTER'S MERCY AS LONG AS HE HAS POSSESSION OF THE AGE-RAY MACHINE!


AS DUSK SETTLES OVER THE PLANET, THE TRIO MAKES ITS WAY TO A ROCK LEDGE WHERE...
LISTEN WELL...THE SCIENTIST LAIKO IS NO MORE! AND I NOW PLACE MYSELF IN ABSOLUTE COMMAND OF THIS EXPEDITION! YOU WILL DO MY BIDDING OR ELSE!
MOST DISCOURAGING! I FEAR THAT EVIL BEING INTENDS TO USE THE AGE-RAY AS A WEAPON AGAINST HIS OWN PEOPLE!

I CHALLENGE YOUR RIGHT TO SUCH A CLAIM, KOOBA!
LET US SEE HOW HEAVY YOUR WORDS WILL WEIGH ONCE I EXPOSE YOU TO THE AGE-RAY, MY FRIEND...
I SHALL REDUCE YOU PHYSICALLY TO AN INFANT ...TO MATCH YOUR CHILDISH DEMAND...
ZA ZAAAP!
AND THAT WILL BE THE FATE OF ALL OF YOU IF YOU DO NOT HEED MY DEMANDS!
LOOK! HE HAS BEEN TRANSFORMED INTO A—A BABE!
SO THAT'S HIS GAME--AN ALIEN DICTATOR IN THE MAKING! HEY... WHAT'S THAT?
THE LEDGE... IT IS GIVING WAY...
CRAAAACK
TOO LATE TO BAIL OFF THIS THING! LOOKS LIKE WE'RE IN FOR A SLEIGH RIDE!

THE BIZARRE SLED BARRELS DOWN THE HILLSIDE AND INTO THE ALIEN GROUP WHERE FISTS FLY...
LOOKS LIKE WE'VE GOT OUR HANDS FULL, SPOCK! WHAT IS OUR CHANCE OF NAILING THAT MACHINE AND ESCAPING?
NIL, CAPTAIN!
SEIZE THEM! THEY ARE HOSTILE... INVADERS FROM ANOTHER GALAXY!
WHY DON'T YOU ALL COME TO YOUR SENSES! YOUR REAL ENEMY IS KOOBA... AND THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO OVERTHROW HIM!
IT IS NO USE, CAPTAIN KIRK--FOR THEY FEAR YOUR PRESENCE MORE THAN THEY DO THAT CULPRIT!
AND WHEN THE WEIGHT OF SHEER NUMBERS FINALLY TAKES ITS TOLL...
EXCELLENT! BRING THEM BEFORE ME FOR SENTENCING!
WELL, WE LOOKED GOOD WHILE IT LASTED, SPOCK!
AND I FEAR THE WORST IS YET TO COME, CAPTAIN!

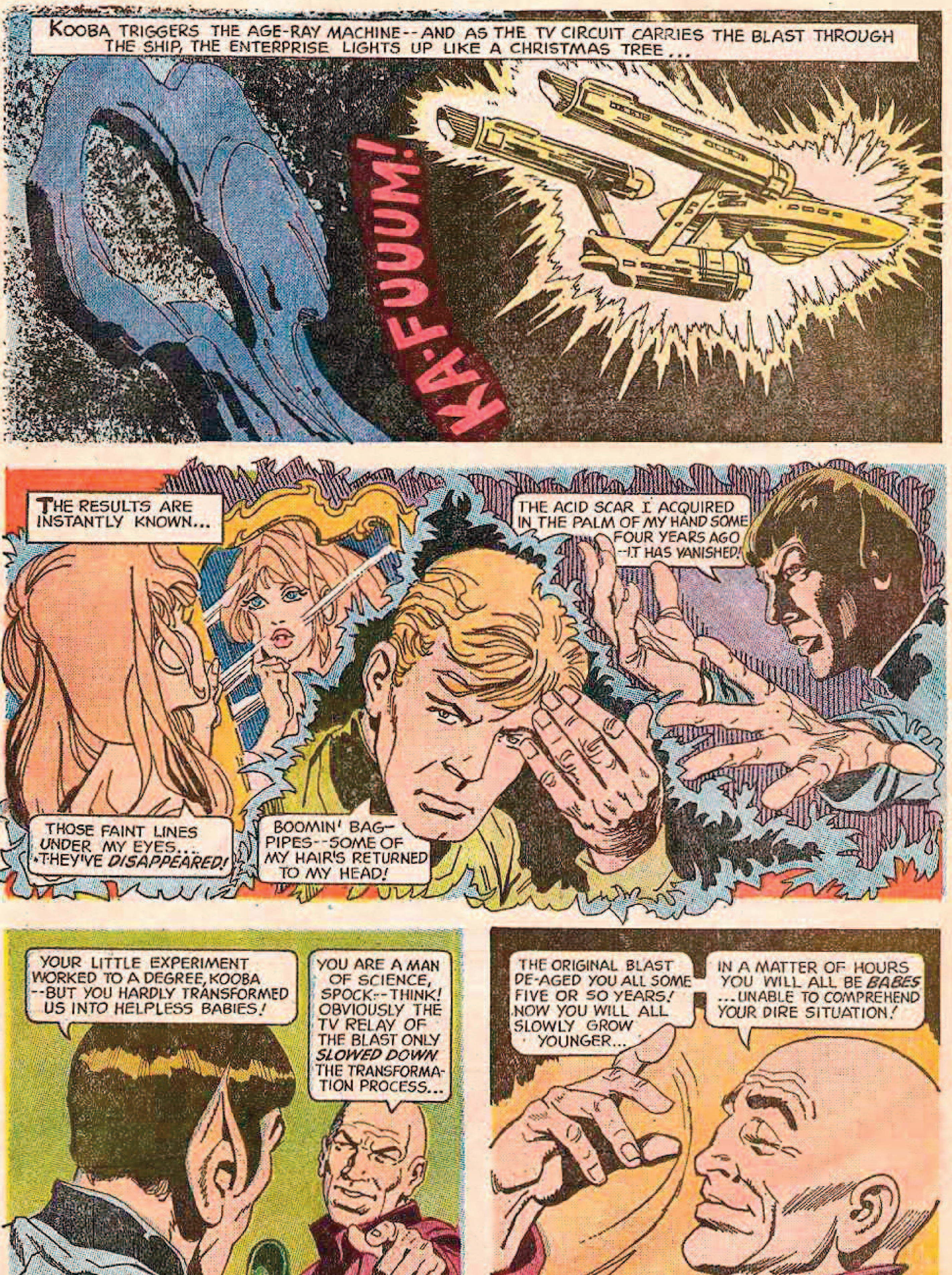
STAR TREK
THE YOUTH TRAP
PART II
FATE HAS PLACED CAPTAIN KIRK, SPOCK AND THE ALIEN LAIKO AT THE MERCY OF KOOBA AND THE FANTASTIC AGE-RAY MACHINE! AND NOW THE PRISONERS HEAR THEIR SENTENCE...
I WILL HAVE THE THREE OF YOU EXECUTED IN DUE TIME! BUT FOR THE MOMENT YOU ARE MORE VALUABLE TO ME ALIVE...
ONE THING PUZZLES ME--WHY WASN'T I AFFECTED BY THAT AGE-RAY BLAST WHEN IT HIT ME?
BUT YOU WERE, YOU FOOL! A MATTER OF SEVERAL MONTHS PERHAPS!
IN OTHER WORDS, WITH REPEATED DOSES AT REGULAR INTERVALS, I CAN REMAIN THIS AGE WITH MY FULL MENTAL CAPACITY...FOREVER!
YES...BUT OF COURSE I WON'T LET YOU! WHEN IT SUITS MY PURPOSE I'LL TURN YOU TOO INTO AN INFANT!
COME TO YOUR SENSES, KOOBA! WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO GAIN BY HOLDING THAT MACHINE OVER THE HEADS OF OUR COLONY HERE?

BUT THIS IS MERELY A TESTING GROUNDS FOR THINGS TO COME, LAIKO...
THINK OF THE POWER I WILL COMMAND WITH THIS MACHINE ON OUR HOME PLANET...
"UPON OUR RETURN I WILL SUMMON ALL THOSE IN GOVERNMENT BEFORE ME..."
WHAT IS THE URGENCY OF THIS MEETING, KOOBA? IS THERE SOMETHING REGARDING YOUR ILL-FATED FLIGHT YOU FAILED TO REPORT?
INDEED THERE IS, MY FRIEND..
A-A MACHINE... REDUCING US TO ... BABES!
WHAT DOES THIS MADMAN HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH...
ONCE I HAVE ELIMINATED THESE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS NOTHING CAN STAND IN MY WAY...
YOUR TRIBUTES TO ME HAVE FALLEN BEHIND! BRING THEM UP TO DATE AT ONCE OR I SHALL SUBJECT YOU TO THE WRATH OF THE AGE-RAY!
IT WILL BE DONE, GREAT KOOBA!

BUT YOU FORGET, KOOBA--OUR SPACESHIP IS CRIPPLED--WE MAY NEVER BE ABLE TO REPAIR IT FOR THE JOURNEY HOME!
IT WILL NOT BE NECESSARY, LAIKO!
FOR I INTEND TO ASSUME COMMAND OF THE SPACESHIP THEY CALL ENTERPRISE FOR THE JOURNEY!
NOW I KNOW YOUR MIND'S TWISTED, KOOBA...
...FOR MY CREW WILL NEVER SURRENDER MY SHIP TO YOU!
THAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN! YOU SEE, I HAVE A PLAN, CAPTAIN KIRK...
GUARDS! STRIP KIRK OF HIS GEAR AND THROW HIM AND LAIKO INTO THE SHIP'S BRIG! THE ONE NAMED SPOCK WILL ACCOMPANY ME!
I ASSUME YOU ARE ABOUT TO LAUNCH YOUR PLAN, KOOBA!
INDEED I AM--AND WHEN I HAVE FINISHED THE ENTERPRISE WILL BE MINE!
THIS IS A MATTER OF CONJECTURE! THERE IS AN EARTH-MAN SAYING... "PERHAPS YOU ARE BITING OFF MORE THAN YOU CAN CHEW!

MEANWHILE, A BEWILDERED CREW FACES A DILEMMA ABOARD THE ENTERPRISE...
LOOK AT ALL THE ROCKS ON THE PICTURE SCREEN!
WE COULD HAVE LOTS OF FUN PLAYING HIDE-AND-SEEK THERE...
OH, DEAR...THIS IS LIKE A NIGHTMARE! WHAT SHALL WE DO, SCOTTY?
I'M AFRAID THERE'S NOTHING MUCH WE CAN DO, LASSIE! PERHAPS WHEN THE CAPTAIN AND MR. SPOCK RETURN THEY'LL HAVE AN ANSWER!
AND I'M BEGINNING TO WORRY ABOUT THEM! WE HAVEN'T HAD A REPORT IN HOURS...
ATTENTION! ATTENTION! MR. SPOCK IS MAKING RADIO CONTACT WITH TRANSPORTER ROOM...
NOW WE MAY LEARN SOMETHING, SUSAN! LET'S MOVE IT TO THE CHAMBER!
TRANS
TENSE MINUTES LATER, MR. SPOCK MATERIALIZES IN THE CHAMBER IN THE COMPANY OF TWO HOSTILE ALIENS...
MR. SPOCK... WHO BE YOUR TWO COMPANIONS?
I CAN ASSURE YOU THEY ARE NOT FRIENDS! BUT DO NOT MAKE ANY HOSTILE MOVES--IT WILL COST THE LIFE OF CAPTAIN KIRK!

HE IS BEING HELD HOSTAGE BY THIS CRIMINAL ALIEN! WE MUST DO JUST AS HE DEMANDS!
MY FIRST COMMAND--TEACH MY ASSISTANT GORG HOW TO OPERATE THE TRANSPORTER DEVICE...
AND WHAT PURPOSE WILL THAT SERVE, KOOBA?
GORG WILL OPERATE THE MACHINE TO TRANSPORT MY COLONY SLAVES UP HERE TO THE ENTERPRISE!
YOU DON'T EXPECT US TO STAND BY AND ALLOW THIS TAKE-OVER, DO YOU?
AND IT'S ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO AGE-RAY BLAST THE ENTIRE CREW WITHOUT BEING JUMPED SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY!
I KNOW! THAT IS WHY I INTEND TO MASS BLAST YOU ALL...
THIS IS A COMMAND--ORDER THE ENTIRE CREW BEFORE THE MONITORING SCREENS IN THEIR INDIVIDUAL SECTIONS!
WITH CAPTAIN KIRK'S LIFE AT STAKE, MR. SPOCK HAS NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO OBLIGE THE POWER-CRAZED ALIEN...
A MOST INTERESTING EXPERIMENT, KOOBA! DO YOU ACTUALLY BELIEVE THE POWER OF THE AGE-RAY BLAST CAN BE CARRIED OVER TV?
WHY NOT? IT HAS BEEN PROVEN ONE CAN BE HYPNOTIZED VIA TELEVISION TRANSMISSION! NOW, ALL EYES ON THE SCREEN!


KOOBA TRIGGERS THE AGE-RAY MACHINE--AND AS THE TV CIRCUIT CARRIES THE BLAST THROUGH THE SHIP, THE ENTERPRISE LIGHTS UP LIKE A CHRISTMAS TREE...
KA-FUUUM!
THE RESULTS ARE INSTANTLY KNOWN...
THE ACID SCAR I ACQUIRED IN THE PALM OF MY HAND SOME FOUR YEARS AGO --IT HAS VANISHED!
THOSE FAINT LINES UNDER MY EYES... THEY'VE DISAPPEARED!
BOOMIN' BAG-PIPES--SOME OF MY HAIR'S RETURNED TO MY HEAD!
YOUR LITTLE EXPERIMENT WORKED TO A DEGREE, KOOBA --BUT YOU HARDLY TRANSFORMED US INTO HELPLESS BABIES!
YOU ARE A MAN OF SCIENCE, SPOCK--THINK! OBVIOUSLY THE TV RELAY OF THE BLAST ONLY SLOWED DOWN THE TRANSFORMATION PROCESS...
THE ORIGINAL BLAST DE-AGED YOU ALL SOME FIVE OR SO YEARS! NOW YOU WILL ALL SLOWLY GROW YOUNGER...
IN A MATTER OF HOURS YOU WILL ALL BE BABES ...UNABLE TO COMPREHEND YOUR DIRE SITUATION!

WELL, GORG, HAVE YOU MASTERED THE OPERATION OF THE TRANSPORTER YET?
YES, KOOBA... IT WAS NOT DIFFICULT!
ALL RIGHT, EVERYONE OUTSIDE THE CHAMBER... AND QUICKLY!
ONCE THEY ARE OUTSIDE, I WILL LOCK THE DOORS, GORG! THEN YOU WILL TRANSPORT ME DOWN TO THE PLANET! I HAVE MUCH WORK TO DO THERE!
ONE MINUTE LATER, THE FIGURE OF KOOBA MATERIALIZES ON THE PLANET...
NOW I MUST MOVE THE CREW OF OUR SPACESHIP HERE FOR TRANSPORTATION TO THE ENTERPRISE VIA THE TRANSPORTER--
AND TAKE CARE OF CAPTAIN KIRK SO THAT HE WILL NO LONGER BE A DANGER TO ME!
THE SCHEMING ALIEN RETURNS TO THE WRECKAGE OF HIS SPACESHIP WHERE...
ALL IS IN READINESS FOR THE TAKE-OVER OF YOUR SHIP, CAPTAIN! THERE IS BUT ONE THING LEFT UNDONE...
THE TRANSFORMATION OF YOU INTO A HELPLESS, BABBLING INFANT!
KA-ZAAP
IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HE SCORES WITH ONE OF THOSE BEAMS! GOT TO COME UP WITH SOMETHING FAST!

THAT SHINY TIN PLATE... I WONDER?
THEN, AS ANOTHER BLAST SEEKS OUT KIRK...
IT WORKED... THE SHINY PLATE REFLECTED THE RAY BLAST!
YIIIIII!
A CLEVER MANEUVER, CAPTAIN! BUT YOU ARE ONLY DELAYING YOUR FATE--IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO REFLECT EVERY RAY I FIRE AT YOU!
HE'S RIGHT... IF I DON'T NAIL HIM NOW I'M FINISHED!
THEN, AS ANOTHER BLAST WITH KIRK'S NAME ON IT STREAKS THROUGH THE AIR...
IF I CAN REFLECT THIS BLAST AT JUST THE RIGHT ANGLE...
ZIINNG

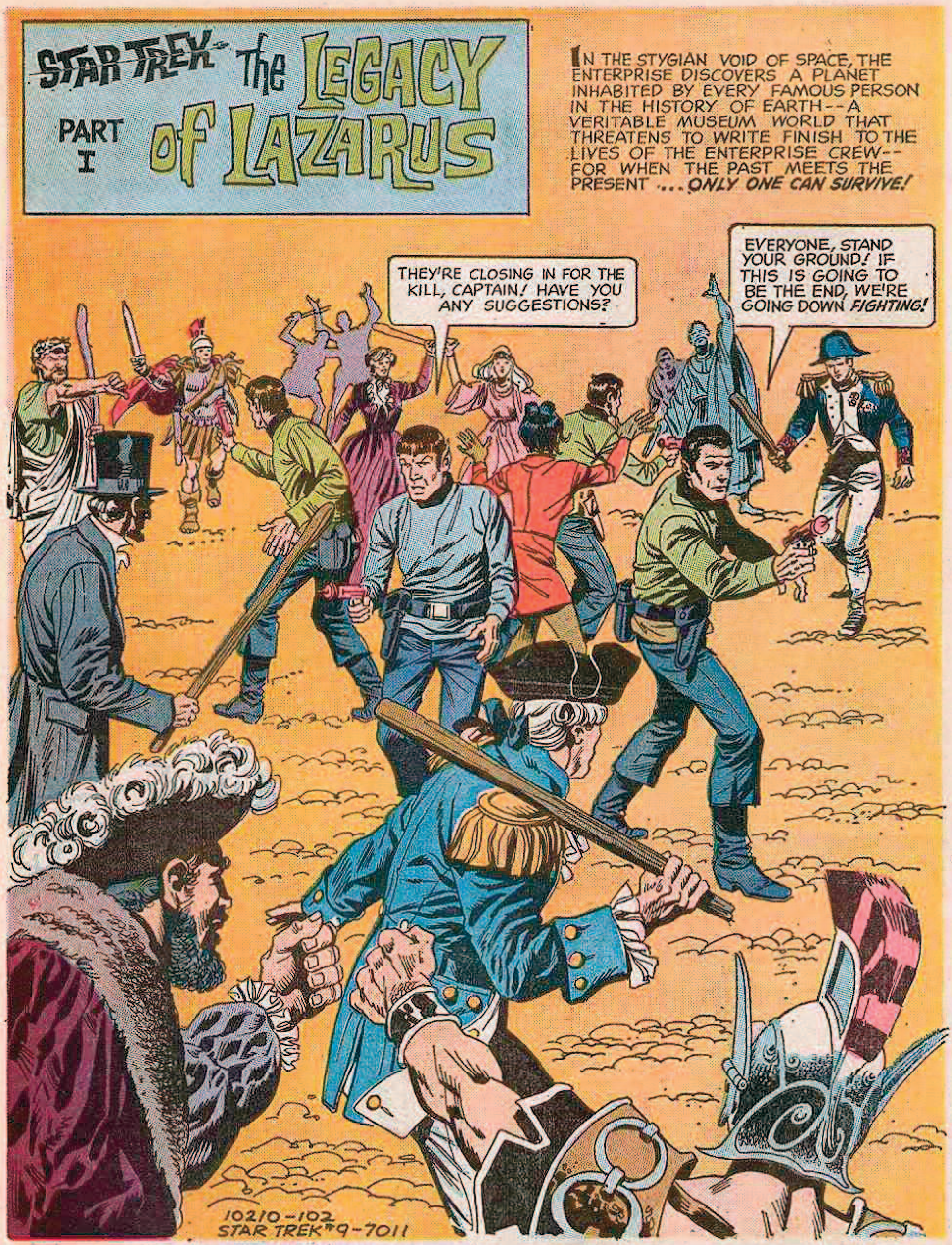
YIII! I HAVE BEEN HIT... WITH MY OWN BLAST!
WHEW! THAT WILL PUT KOOBA OUT OF ACTION!
THEN AS KOOBA INSTANTLY DE-AGES...
A LITTLE TASTE OF YOUR OWN EVIL MEDICINE, KOOBA...
GA, GA... GA, GA...
NOW TO GET MY HAND ON THAT KEY RING AND BREAK OUT OF HERE!
AFTER FREEING HIMSELF, THE CAPTAIN RACES TO A NEARBY CELL WHERE...
YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME, LAIKO! IS THERE ANY WAY THIS AGE-RAY MACHINE CAN BE USED TO RETURN ITS VICTIMS TO NORMAL?
I BELIEVE IT IS POSSIBLE...
BUT YOUR THREE MEN WHO WERE TRANSFORMED-- THEY ARE ABOARD THE ENTERPRISE!
AND I HEARD KOOBA SAY THAT HIS ASSISTANT GORG WAS STATIONED AT THE CONTROLS OF THE TRANS-PORTER! HE WOULD NEVER RETURN YOU TO YOUR SHIP!

VERY TRUE, LAIKO! BUT PERHAPS WE CAN LEAD HIM TO BELIEVE HE IS TRANSPORTING KOOBA TO THE ENTERPRISE...
I'VE GOT AN IDEA THAT'S WORTH TRYING! LET'S HURRY...
A SHORT TIME LATER, TWO FIGURES MATERIALIZE IN THE TRANSPORTATION CHAMBER OF THE ENTERPRISE...
I SEE YOU HAVE MADE PEACE WITH LAIKO, KOOBA!
YES, WE ARE FRIENDS ONCE AGAIN, GORG...
THAT VOICE... YOU ARE NOT KOOBA!...
SMART BOY! CATCH, LAIKO... I'VE GOT TO TAKE CARE OF THIS CHARACTER!
LAIKO! UNBOLT THE CHAMBER DOOR! I WANT TO MAKE CONTACT WITH MY CREW...
OOF!
WELL, CALL THEM IN! WHAT'S WRONG, LAIKO?
I-I THINK YOU HAD BETTER SEE FOR YOURSELF, CAPTAIN!

AS KIRK STEPS INTO THE CONTROL ROOM A SHATTERING SIGHT MEETS HIS EYES...
MY ENTIRE CREW... *VICTIMS* OF THE AGE-RAY MACHINE! HOW IS IT POSSIBLE?
VIA THE MEDIUM OF TELEVISION, CAPTAIN--HE MASS-BLASTED US ALL!
THEN IT SHOULD WORK IN REVERSE ...TO BRING YOU ALL BACK TO NORMAL! LAIKO...
SET THE MACHINE ON THE READING YOU THINK WILL RETURN THEM ALL TO NORMAL!
VERY WELL, CAPTAIN! STATION YOUR CREW BEFORE THE TV SCREENS!
TENSE MINUTES LATER, BEFORE THE SHIP'S MASTER TV CAMERA...
IT'S *GOT* TO WORK...OR MY ENTIRE CREW... THE ENTERPRISE IS DOOMED!
AND AS THE BLASTS "EXPLODES" ON THE TV SCREENS THROUGHOUT THE ENTERPRISE...
I'M... BACK TO NORMAL...I CAN JUST *FEEL* IT!
WOW! THAT FLASH IS BLINDING!
GOSH, IT'S *GREAT* TO BE AN "OLD MAN" AGAIN!

SCOTTY! GET AN ENGINEERING TEAM DOWN THERE TO MINE THAT ZUTOTANIUM FOR OUR ENGINE FILAMENTS...
COME ON, SPOCK-- WE'VE GOT A LITTLE UNFINISHED BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO AT THE ALIEN CAMP!
TRANSPORTING DOWN TO THE PLANET, THE TRIO RACES TO THE ALIEN CAMP WHERE...
MY THANKS FOR YOUR KINDNESS, EARTHMAN! IT WAS EVIL OF KOOBA TO TRANSFORM ME LIKE THAT!
WELL, NONE OF YOU WILL HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HIM ANYMORE!
WHAT OF KOOBA? WILL YOU RETURN *HIM* TO NORMAL ALSO?
NO! I THINK IT'S ONLY JUST HE REMAINS AS HE IS--A FITTING FATE FOR SUCH AN EVIL BEING!
IT IS BETTER FOR YOU *ALL* IF THIS AGE-RAY MACHINE DIDN'T EXIST!
NO TRUER WORDS HAVE BEEN SPOKEN, CAPTAIN!
AND I'M SURE THAT AFTER LAIKO'S EXPERIENCE WITH IT HE'D HARDLY CONSTRUCT *ANOTHER!*
RETURNING TO THE SHIP, FILAMENTS ARE MANUFACTURED AND THE THRUST OF MIGHTY ENGINES LAUNCHES THE ENTERPRISE INTO THE DARKNESS OF SPACE, SEEKING NEW ADVENTURES...
WHEN STAR FLEET COMMAND RECEIVED OUR REPORT THEY THOUGHT WE'D ALL GONE A LITTLE SPACE HAPPY, MR. SPOCK!
NATURALLY, CAPTAIN! ONE WOULD HAVE TO BE A *VICTIM* OF THE AGE-RAY MACHINE TO *BELIEVE* ITS EXISTENCE!

MOMENTS LATER, IN THE TRANSPORTER ROOM...
WHAT'S UP, JIM?
PLENTY, BONES-- BUT WE'LL SEE FOR OURSELVES WHEN WE BEAM DOWN!
ANY TIME YOU'RE READY, SCOTTY... ENERGIZE!
FOR SEVERAL SECONDS, THE TRANSPORTER BEAMS BATHE THE FIVE FIGURES IN ELECTRONIC BRILLIANCE--THEN THEY BEGIN TO SHIMMER AND FADE... AND MOMENTS LATER...
BULL'S-EYE! SCOTTY GETS BETTER EVERY...
CAPTAIN, LOOK!
MY APOLOGIES, MR. SPOCK! YOU WERE MOST DEFINITELY RIGHT!
NATURALLY, CAPTAIN! DID YOU EXPECT OTHERWISE?
YOU KNOW, SPOCK-- SOMETIMES YOU CAN BE IRRITATINGLY HUMAN!
REALLY, DOCTOR-- THIS IS NO TIME FOR INSULTS!



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CAPTAIN'S LOG, STAR DATE 10:26.3-- WE'VE ESTABLISHED ORBIT AROUND GAMMA ALPHA V TO VERIFY FINDINGS OF THE ROBOT PROBE THAT DISCOVERED THIS PLANET TEN YEARS AGO...
NCC-1701
PECULIAR, CAPTAIN...THE PROBE REPORTED THIS PLANET AS CLASS M--ABLE TO SUSTAIN HUMAN LIFE-- BUT TOTALLY UNINHABITED!
WHAT'S SO STRANGE ABOUT THAT, MR. SPOCK?
ACCORDING TO MY SENSORS, CAPTAIN-- THERE IS A THRIVING CIVILIZATION ON THE PLANET'S SURFACE!
ARE YOU CERTAIN, MR. SPOCK?
CAPTAIN, MY FINDINGS ARE CONCLUSIVE-- THERE IS A CITY OF GREAT SIZE ON GAMMA ALPHA V... AND IT IS INHABITED!
IF THAT'S THE CASE, SPOCK ... MR. SULU, LT. UHURA-- ALERT DR. McCOY AND MEET US IN THE TRANSPORTER ROOM ON THE DOUBLE!
MY THOUGHTS EXACTLY, CAPTAIN!

CAUTIOUSLY, THE LANDING PARTY ENTERS THE GREAT CITY...
REMARKABLE, CAPTAIN--IF THE ROBOT PROBE WAS CORRECT, THIS CITY WAS NOT HERE TEN SHORT YEARS AGO! NOR WAS THERE EVEN ANY FORM OF LIFE HERE!
I AGREE, SPOCK! LET'S ASK ONE OF THE LOCAL INHABITANTS!
SPOTTING SOMEONE ACROSS THE STREET, CAPTAIN KIRK APPROACHES HIM AND...
EXCUSE ME, SIR! I WONDER IF I MIGHT HAVE A WORD WITH YOU?
CERTAINLY, FRIEND! IS THERE SOMETHING I CAN DO FOR YOU?
GOOD LORD! G-GEORGE WASHINGTON!
WHY, YES! HOW DID YOU KNOW MY NAME?
BUT-BUT THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE! YOU'VE BEEN DEAD FOR CENTURIES!
APPARENTLY NOT, CAPTAIN! ACCORDING TO MY TRI-CORDER READINGS, HE'S AS REAL AS YOU OR I!

MY FRIENDS, YOU SEEM PUZZLED! COME! IT IS ALMOST DINNERTIME! DINE WITH ME AND WE'LL TALK! PERHAPS I CAN BE OF SOME HELP!
THANK YOU, SIR! IT WOULD BE AN HONOR!
COME IN! MAKE YOURSELVES AT HOME! DINNER WILL BE SERVED DIRECTLY!
OOHH, IT'S JUST BEAUTIFUL! WHAT AN EXCITING COMBINATION OF STYLES!
FRIENDS, MAY I INTRODUCE MY WIFE... THE FORMER HELEN OF TROY!
OH, NO-- NOT AGAIN?
HELEN OF WHO?
THIS CAN'T BE REAL! GEORGE WASHINGTON AND HELEN OF TROY LIVED CENTURIES APART!... MR. SPOCK, CAN YOU EXPLAIN THIS?
I'M AFRAID NOT, CAPTAIN! I LACK SUFFICIENT INFORMATION TO EVALUATE THE SITUATION PROPERLY!
GENERAL! PERHAPS YOU CAN HELP! HOW DID YOU GET HERE? WHAT DO YOU DO? WHY ARE...
SLOWLY, MY FRIEND! ONE QUESTION AT A TIME!

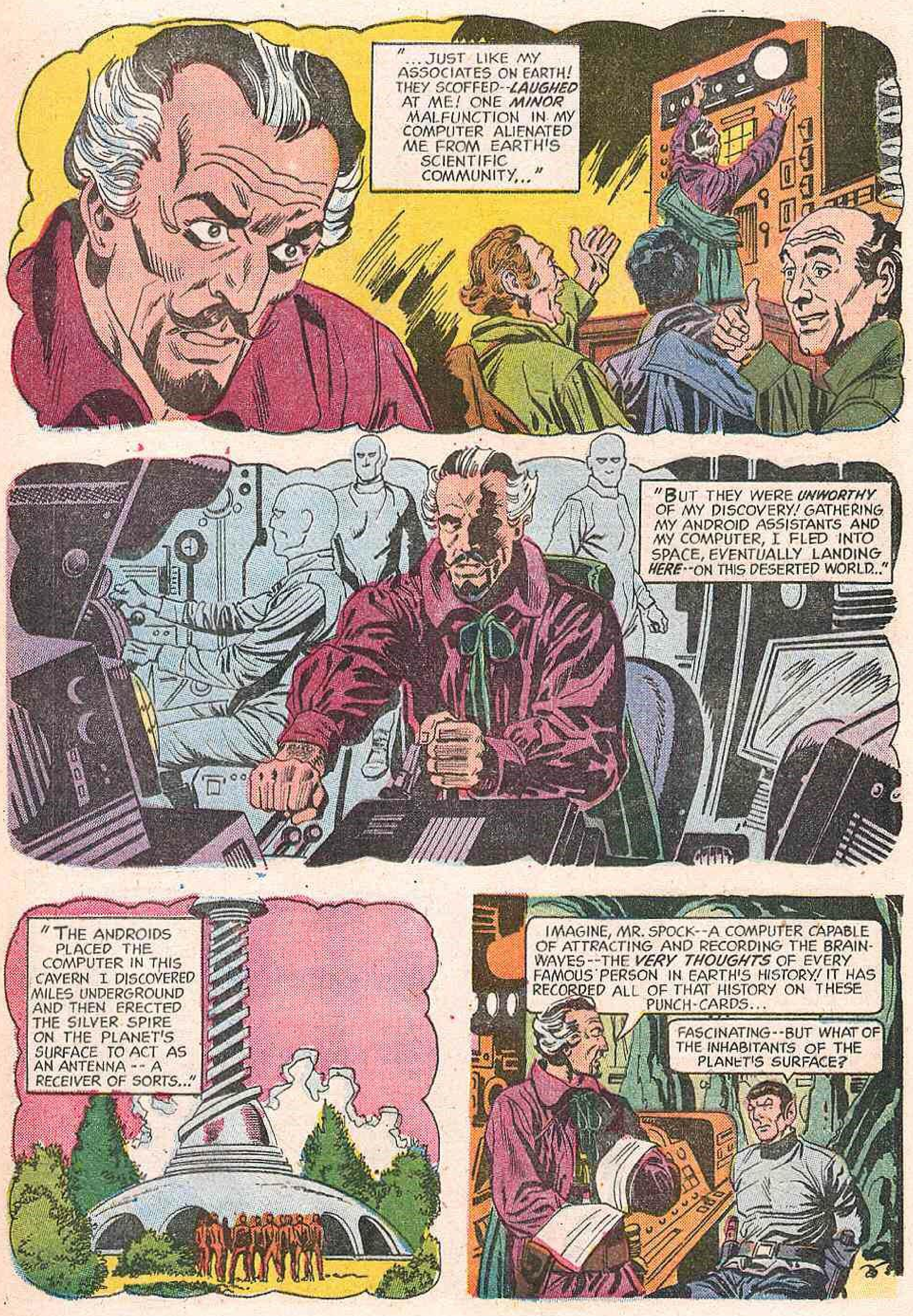
I--IN FACT, ALL OF US--HAVE BEEN HERE FOR AS LONG AS I CAN REMEMBER! LIFE IS SIMPLE HERE--NOTHING TO DO ALL DAY BUT SIT AND REMINISCE! ANYTHING WE WANT IS SUPPLIED FOR US! THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN'T DO... NO PLACE WE CAN'T GO... EXCEPT--THE SILVER SPIRE!
YOU MEAN THE HUGE TOWER IN THE CENTER OF THE CITY?
YES--THAT'S IT! IT'S THE ONLY AREA THAT IS RESTRICTED TO US!
SPOCK! SULU! CHECK OUT THAT TOWER! I WANT TO KNOW WHAT MAKES IT SO SPECIAL!
AFFIRMATIVE, CAPTAIN! WE'LL KEEP IN CONTACT!
AND MOMENTS AFTER THE ENTERPRISE PAIR HAVE LEFT...
GENERAL, YOU KEEP MENTIONING "OTHERS" --WHAT OTHERS? WHERE ARE THEY?
IF YOU'LL FOLLOW ME, CAPTAIN KIRK--I'LL INTRODUCE YOU TO MY ASSOCIATES!

SHORTLY, ON THE CITY'S STREETS...
CAPTAIN, MAY I PRESENT NERO, EMPEROR OF ROME!
A PLEASURE, I'M SURE!
THIS GETS MORE CONFUSING BY THE MINUTE!
AND I'M SURE YOU'LL RECOGNIZE ANTON YORK, 45TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES!
MR. PRESIDENT!
AHH, SOME NEW ADDITIONS! IT'LL BE NICE TO SEE A NEW FACE! WELCOME ABOARD!
WHAT DID HE MEAN-- "NEW ADDITIONS"?
OH, NOTHING... NOTHING!-- NOW OVER HERE, WE HAVE...
ABRAHAM LINCOLN!
ALL RIGHT, I'M IMPRESSED! NOW WHAT DID YORK MEAN -- "NEW ADDITIONS"? IS THIS SOME KIND OF COLLECTION?
YOU MIGHT SAY THAT!

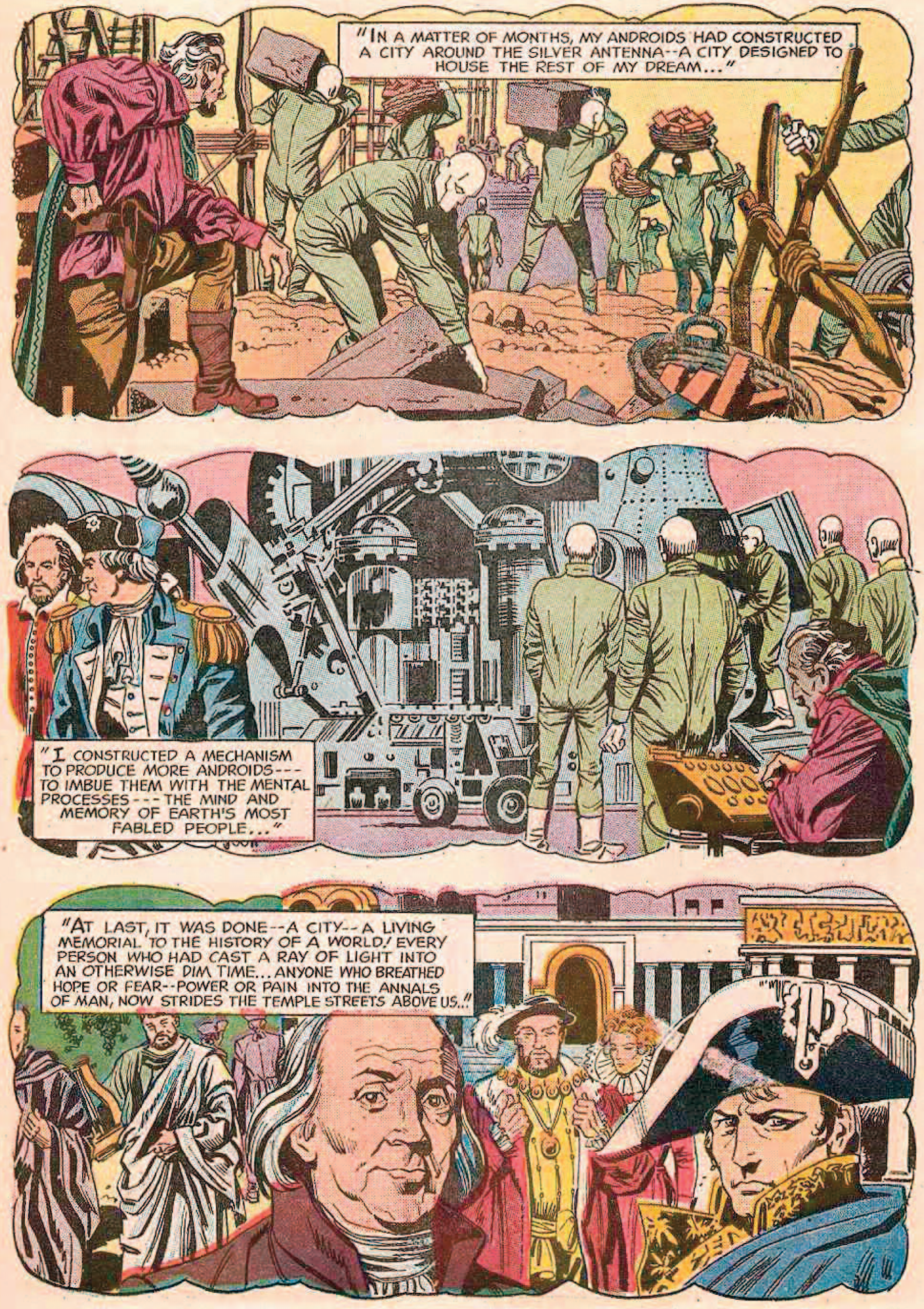
MOMENTS LATER, AS THE CAPTAIN'S ORDER IS CARRIED OUT...
THE ENTERPRISE CREW IS IN FOR QUITE A SHOCK WHEN THEY OBSERVE WHAT MATERIALIZES IN THE TRANSPORTER ROOM, CAPTAIN...
YOU CAN BET ON IT, MR. SPOCK! LET'S MOVE!
THE PAIR MOVE CAUTIOUSLY UP THE MOUNTAIN SIDE, UTILIZING THE COVER OF ROCKS AND SHADOWS FOR CONCEALMENT...
SO FAR...SO GOOD! WE'RE NEARLY HALF WAY TO THE TOP!
BUT OUR NEXT MOVE WILL BE A DANGEROUS ONE, CAPTAIN--FOR OUR NEAREST COVER IS UP AHEAD...ACROSS THAT OPEN PATCH OF GROUND!
WELL, WE'VE GOT TO TAKE A SHOT AT IT, SPOCK! I'LL GO FIRST...YOU HOLD THE FORT!
AS YOU SAY, CAPTAIN! GOOD LUCK!
BUT LUCK IS NOT TO BE WITH THE CAPTAIN--FOR AS HE BOLTS ACROSS THE CLEARING...
THE CAPTAIN ...HE HAS BEEN HIT! WHAT INCREDIBLE AGE REVERSAL WILL HE EXPERIENCE?
YI!
SUCCESS AT LAST...HO... HO...
THE ALIENS...SPEAKING IN THE INTERPLANETARY SPACE LANGUAGE ESPERANTA! BUT WHY ARE THEY REJOICING?

IF THERE *IS* A LOGICAL EXPLANATION, OUR MR. SPOCK WILL FIND IT! WHICH REMINDS ME...
KIRK TO SPOCK! REPORT, MR. SPOCK!... *SPOCK, IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG?*
FOR SEVERAL TENSE SECONDS, CAPTAIN KIRK TRIES TO ESTABLISH CONTACT WITH HIS FIRST OFFICER TO NO AVAIL UNTIL...
SOMETHING'S HAPPENED! BONES--UHURA ...LET'S MOVE IT! SPOCK MAY NEED OUR HELP!
DESPERATELY, THEY RACE ACROSS THE CITY, AND IN THE SHADOW OF THE GREAT SILVER SPIRE...
SULU! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT? WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
UHHH... CAPTAIN! THANK HEAVENS IT'S *YOU!*
HE HAS A LARGE LUMP ON HIS HEAD, CAPTAIN--BUT HE'LL BE ALL RIGHT!
GOOD! SULU, CAN YOU TELL US WHAT...
JIM...IT'S MR. SPOCK--I CAN'T FIND HIM ANYWHERE! *HE'S DISAPPEARED!*

AND FAR BELOW...
AHH, MR. SPOCK, YOU'VE AWAKENED! I WOULDN'T COUNT ON MY FRIENDS TO RESCUE ME IF I WERE YOU! I DOUBT THEY'LL EVER EVEN FIND YOU--HERE, MILES BENEATH THEIR FEET!
MY DEAR MR. SPOCK, FORGIVE MY LACK OF MANNERS! I AM ALEXANDER LAZARUS!
THAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN! RIGHT NOW, I AM MORE INTERESTED IN WHO YOU ARE AND WHY YOU HAVE BROUGHT ME HERE!
LAZARUS! I RECOGNIZE THE NAME! YOU ARE AN EARTH HISTORIAN OF SOME MINOR REPUTE!
MINOR REPUTE? AH, SPOCK--SPOCK, YOU'RE JUST LIKE ALL THE REST, BLIND TO THE GENIUS YOU SEE ABOUT YOU...


"...JUST LIKE MY ASSOCIATES ON EARTH! THEY SCOFFED--LAUGHED AT ME! ONE MINOR MALFUNCTION IN MY COMPUTER ALIENATED ME FROM EARTH'S SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY..."
"BUT THEY WERE UNWORTHY OF MY DISCOVERY! GATHERING MY ANDROID ASSISTANTS AND MY COMPUTER, I FLED INTO SPACE, EVENTUALLY LANDING HERE--ON THIS DESERTED WORLD..."
"THE ANDROIDS PLACED THE COMPUTER IN THIS CAVERN I DISCOVERED MILES UNDERGROUND AND THEN ERECTED THE SILVER SPIRE ON THE PLANET'S SURFACE TO ACT AS AN ANTENNA -- A RECEIVER OF SORTS..."
IMAGINE, MR. SPOCK--A COMPUTER CAPABLE OF ATTRACTING AND RECORDING THE BRAIN-WAVES--THE VERY THOUGHTS OF EVERY FAMOUS PERSON IN EARTH'S HISTORY! IT HAS RECORDED ALL OF THAT HISTORY ON THESE PUNCH-CARDS...
FASCINATING--BUT WHAT OF THE INHABITANTS OF THE PLANET'S SURFACE?

"THAT, SPOCK, IS THE GREATEST TRIUMPH OF ALL! THE ANDROIDS WERE GOING ABOUT THEIR DUTIES ONE DAY WHEN THE PSI-CLONE SHORT-CIRCUITED..."
"AS THE ANDROIDS FLED THE CHAMBER, ONE OF THEM WAS CAUGHT IN A BURST OF ENERGY FROM THE ERUPTING COMPUTER..."
"I RUSHED TO THE FALLEN ANDROID TO SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE BUT..."
UNHAND ME, SIR! I HAVE NO NEED OF YOUR ASSISTANCE! I'M NOT THAT OLD YET!
B-BENJAMIN FRANKLIN?
"IN SOME STRANGE MANNER, MY COMPUTER HAD TRANSFERRED THE THOUGHT-PATTERNS OF BENJAMIN FRANKLIN TO THE ANDROID'S ELECTRONIC BRAIN! FOR ALL INTENTS AND PURPOSES, THIS WAS BENJAMIN FRANKLIN!"
AT LAST! I FINALLY HAVE MORE THAN PUNCH-CARDS AND TAPES! YOU'RE ALIVE! YOU WALK--TALK--THINK LIKE BEN FRANKLIN!


"IN A MATTER OF MONTHS, MY ANDROIDS HAD CONSTRUCTED A CITY AROUND THE SILVER ANTENNA--A CITY DESIGNED TO HOUSE THE REST OF MY DREAM..."
"I CONSTRUCTED A MECHANISM TO PRODUCE MORE ANDROIDS--- TO IMBUE THEM WITH THE MENTAL PROCESSES---THE MIND AND MEMORY OF EARTH'S MOST FABLED PEOPLE..."
"AT LAST, IT WAS DONE--A CITY--A LIVING MEMORIAL TO THE HISTORY OF A WORLD! EVERY PERSON WHO HAD CAST A RAY OF LIGHT INTO AN OTHERWISE DIM TIME... ANYONE WHO BREATHED HOPE OR FEAR--POWER OR PAIN INTO THE ANNALS OF MAN, NOW STRIDES THE TEMPLE STREETS ABOVE US..."

FASCINATING! A REMARKABLE ACCOMPLISHMENT! BUT THAT DOES NOT EXPLAIN YOUR REASONS FOR ABDUCTING ME!
BASICALLY, MR. SPOCK, IT'S VERY SIMPLE...
FOR YEARS, I'VE STUDIED THE FIGURES ABOVE US--LISTENED TO THEIR REMINISCENCES--THE STORIES OF THEIR LIVES...OVER AND OVER AND OVER AGAIN!
BUT, HOW MANY TIMES CAN YOU LISTEN TO NAPOLEON TELLING HOW HE WON THE BATTLE OF AUSTERLITZ? I'M BORED, SPOCK... BORED TO TEARS!
THEN I SAW YOU ON THE PLANET'S SURFACE--AND AN IDEA EVOLVED! I'M GOING TO STUDY VULCAN HISTORY, MR. SPOCK, AND I NEED YOUR HELP!
MY ASSISTANCE? IN WHAT WAY?
IT'S SIMPLE, SPOCK, INCREDIBLY SIMPLE! ALL I WANT FROM YOU IS--- YOUR BRAIN!!

STAR TREK
The LEGACY of LAZARUS
PART II
CAPTAIN'S LOG, STAR DATE 10:26.8-- UPON BEAMING DOWN TO PLANET GAMMA ALPHA V, WE'VE DISCOVERED SOMETHING INCREDIBLE--A CITY PEOPLED BY EVERY FAMOUS PERSON WHO EVER WALKED THE EARTH! WHILE EXAMINING A STRANGE SILVER TOWER IN THE CITY'S CENTER, MR. SPOCK DISAPPEARED! EVEN NOW, MY FIRST OFFICER--MY FRIEND--IS SOMEWHERE ON THIS PLANET, PERHAPS IN TERRIBLE DANGER!
IT APPEARS YOUR CAPTAIN IS NO CLOSER TO FINDING YOU THAN HE WAS BEFORE! SO LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS, SHALL WE?
THIS IS HIGHLY ILLOGICAL! OF WHAT POSSIBLE USE COULD MY BRAIN BE TO YOU?

YOU SEE, THE PSI-CLONE IS ATTUNED *ONLY* TO EARTHLY BRAIN-WAVES! YOUR VULCAN THOUGHT PATTERNS ARE TOTALLY FOREIGN TO IT!
IN ORDER TO ADAPT THE COMPUTER TO ACCEPT VULCAN THOUGHTS, I MUST HAVE A SUBJECT...
SOMEONE WHOSE BRAIN-PATTERNS CAN BE ABSORBED AND RECORDED BY MY... ER, "BRAIN-DRAIN" DEVICE, I GUESS YOU'D CALL IT! OF COURSE THE PROCESS WILL TOTALLY *DESTROY* YOUR MIND..
BUT, UNFORTUNATELY, MR. SPOCK--*YOU* ARE THE ONLY VULCAN AVAILABLE!
SIR, I RETRACT ALL MY PREVIOUS COMMENTS--YOU ARE MOST DEFINITELY *MAD!*

REALLY, SPOCK, NAME-CALLING? I EXPECTED FAR BET... HUH? THE ALARM!
IT APPEARS YOUR FRIENDS ARE MORE CLEVER THAN I THOUGHT! I'LL FINISH WITH YOU WHEN I RETURN!
ANGRILY, LAZARUS RACES ACROSS THE VAST CHAMBER TO THE SCREEN...
CAPTAIN, I'VE UNEARTHED SOME SORT OF HATCHWAY!
PRY IT OPEN, MR. SULU! LET'S SEE WHAT WE CAN FIND!
YOU'D FIND FAR MORE THAN YOU'D EVER SUSPECTED, CAPTAIN --FAR, FAR MORE!
IT'S REALLY A SHAME THAT YOU'RE NOT GOING TO LIVE THAT LONG!
AND NOW, MR. SPOCK--WE HAVE SOME UNFINISHED BUSINESS TO ATTEND TO!

WHILE, SEVERAL STRATA ABOVE SPOCK'S HEAD...
GIVE ME A HAND, BONES! I THINK THE HATCH IS BEGINNING TO...
THUK!
UGGHH!
WHAT HAPPENED? WHO SLUGGED...?
SCOUNDRELS! TRAITORS! YOU'VE COME TO DESTROY US--AND ALL WE STAND FOR! WELL, WE WON'T LET YOU!
YOU'VE BETRAYED US--AND FOR THAT, YOU MUST DIE!
CAPTAIN, BEAM US OUT OF HERE, QUICKLY!
I CAN'T, SULU--NOT WITHOUT SPOCK! SET YOUR PHASERS ON HEAVY STUN!

AND BACK IN THE COMPUTER-CLOAKED CHAMBER...
IN A FEW MINUTES, YOUR FRIENDS WILL BE DEAD! I'VE PROGRAMMED THE ANDROIDS TO ELIMINATE THEM! IN THE MEANTIME, MR. SPOCK-- IF YOU'LL PLEASE FOLLOW ME...
I APPEAR TO HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE...
BUT APPEARANCES CAN BE DECEIVING!
VVOP
UGH! YOU'RE FREE! BUT HOW...?
YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE INVENTIVE! IT MERELY REQUIRED A SIMPLE MATHEMATICAL PROGRESSION TO UNLOCK THE MANACLES!
YOU WON'T LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO GLOAT OVER YOUR INGENUITY, SPOCK!
THE TERM "GLOAT" IS NOT APPLICABLE, LAZARUS! USE YOUR HEAD! YOU DON'T REALIZE WHAT YOU ARE DOING!

LAZARUS, I... OFFF!
THUMP
NO! I WON'T LISTEN! I WON'T LET ALL MY PLANS --MY DREAMS BE SPOILED BY SOME POINTY-EARED, ALIEN FREAK!
YOU'RE TOO LATE, SPOCK! THERE'S NOTHING LEFT FOR YOU TO DO EXCEPT...
DIE--DIE--DIE--DIE--DIE!!!
I'M AFRAID I CAN NO LONGER REASON WITH YOU...
VVOP VVOP VVOP

GIVE-ME-THAT-PHASER!
NEVER! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO RUIN ME! YOU'RE NOT...
I HAVE THE WEAPON, LAZARUS --IMMEDIATE SURRENDER IS YOUR ONLY LOGICAL RECOURSE!
LOGICAL? SURRENDER? NEVER!
LAZARUS, LOOK OUT--BEHIND YOU--
LAZARUS RACES THROUGH THE CAVERN'S ELECTRONIC MAZE, STUMBLING BLINDLY TOWARDS A LARGE PLEXI-GLASS CYLINDER STANDING AGAINST ONE WALL...
LAZARUS FALLS HEAVILY INTO THE "BRAIN-DRAIN" DEVICE, ACCIDENTALLY SLAMMING THE DOOR BEHIND HIM AND...
THE BRAIN-DRAIN'S BEEN ACTIVATED! GET ME OUT OF HERE, SPOCK!
I AM TRYING, LAZARUS --BUT THE DOOR IS SEALED SHUT!
VEEP VEEP VEEP
BEFORE SPOCK'S HORRIFIED EYES, THE CHAMBER PERFORMS ITS TASK WITH A LUNATIC HUM WHICH QUICKENS AND GROWS, RISING TO A FRIGHTENING CRESCENDO...

FINALLY, THE UNHOLY SOUND FADES, TAKING THE MIND OF ALEXANDER LAZARUS WITH IT... LEAVING ONLY THE EMPTY HUSK OF WHAT HAD ONCE BEEN A MAN...
I AM TRULY SORRY, LAZARUS--I WISH THERE WERE SOMETHING I COULD HAVE DONE!
SUDDENLY, SPOCK'S ATTENTION IS DISTRACTED BY...
IT APPEARS LAZARUS' STRAY PHASER BLASTS HAVE SEVERELY DAMAGED THE COMPUTER--IT'S GOING WILD! I HAVE LITTLE TIME TO ACT!
SPOCK PICKS UP HIS FALLEN COMMUNICATOR AND..
SPOCK TO ENTERPRISE--COME IN!
SCOTT HERE, MR. SPOCK! WHAT CAN I DO FOR YE?
LOCK ON TO THE CO-ORDINATES OF THE CAPTAIN AND THE OTHERS AND BEAM THEM ABOARD --IMMEDIATELY!
AYE, SIR--BUT WHAT ABOUT YESELF? I CANNA LEAVE YE DOWN THERE ALONE!
FORGET ME, SCOTT--I'VE DISCOVERED RECORDS DOWN HERE THAT I MUST ATTEMPT TO SAVE!
JUST BEAM THE OTHERS UP--NOW! OUT!

AND, AT THAT MOMENT...
I KNOW, BONES --BUT I JUST CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO SHOOT ABRAHAM LINCOLN!
JIM, THEY'RE WIPING UP THE PLACE...UGH... WITH US!
ZOUNDS! THEY ARE INDEED WIZARDS!
ZEY VANISHED BEFORE OUR VERY EYES!
THE TRANSPORTER BEAMS GLOW BRIGHTLY AS FOUR BATTERED FIGURES BLUR INTO VIEW...
MADE IT! I RETRIEVED THEM JUST IN THE NICK!
THANKS, SCOTTY--YOUR TIMING COULDN'T HAVE BEEN MORE PERFECT! HOW DID YOU KNOW WE NEEDED HELP?
MR. SPOCK, SIR! HE ORDERED US TO BEAM YE UP!

SPOCK! THEN WHERE THE BLAZES IS HE?
HE ORDERED ME TO LEAVE HIM ON THE PLANET, CAP'N! HE WAS TRYIN' TO SAVE SOME SORT OF RECORDS!
THE DEVIL HE WAS! BEAM HIM UP--AND NOW!
SPOCK--THIS IS KIRK--COME IN!
SPOCK HERE, CAPTAIN! HAVE YOU A PROBLEM?
YOU BET I HAVE--YOU! GET READY! SCOTTY WILL BEAM YOU ABOARD!
CAP'N! SPOCK'S TOO FAR BENEATH THE PLANET'S SURFACE! I CANNA TRANSPORT HIM UP!
I'M AFRAID I MUST DECLINE, CAPTAIN! I...
YOU MUST, SCOTTY! TURN THE TRANSPORTER UP FULL!
BUT CAP'N---THAT'S MORE THAN DOUBLE NORMAL OUTPUT! THE TRANSPORTER CANNA TAKE THAT FOR LONG!
BOOM KAKHROOM KRAKK
I'M AFRAID THE QUESTION IS IRRELEVANT, CAPTAIN! IT IS TOO LATE TO DO ANYTHING IN MY BEHALF! THIS ENTIRE CAVERN IS CRUMBLING AROUND ME! GOOD-BYE, JIM! I'LL...

I'M SORRY, CAPTAIN! SENSORS SHOW THAT THE CAVERN HAS BEEN COMPLETELY DESTROYED! MR. SPOCK IS D...
DON'T SAY IT! I DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT! SPOCK WAS MY ADVISOR --MY FRIEND! I DON'T...
CAP'N! THE TRANSPORTER! WE'VE PICKED UP...
SPOCK! YOU'RE ALIVE!
OBVIOUSLY, JIM! HELMSMAN, GET THE SHIP OUT OF HERE --IMMEDIATELY! WARP FACTOR FIVE! THE PLANET IS ABOUT TO...
THE GREAT SILVER STARSHIP ARCS AWAY FROM THE COMPUTERIZED PLANET AT FASTER-THAN-LIGHT SPEED TOWARDS THE SHIMMERING STARS BEYOND JUST AS...
GAMMA ALPHA V! IT'S EXPLODED!
SPOCK--YOU'VE SAVED OUR LIVES!
NOT YET, CAPTAIN! WE STILL HAVEN'T ELUDED...

THE SHOCK-WAVES!!
HELM! AHEAD WARP EIGHT!
FOR NUMBERLESS, TERRIBLE SECONDS, THE ENTERPRISE IS BUFFETED BY THE EXPLOSION, UNTIL...
WE'RE OUT-DISTANCING THEM, CAP'N! WE'RE GONNA BE ALL RIGHT!
THANKS, SCOTTY! RESUME NORMAL SPEED!
REMARKABLE STORY, MR. SPOCK!
YES, CAPTAIN! I ONLY REGRET I WAS UNABLE TO SAVE THOSE COMPUTER TAPES!
I'M SURPRISED, SPOCK! I'D HAVE FIGURED IT WAS ALL INDELIBLY ETCHED ON YOUR MEMORY BANKS!
I ASSUME, DR. McCOY, THAT THAT WAS A FEEBLE ATTEMPT AT HUMOR!
ALL THAT INFORMATION--LOST FOREVER! AFTER ALL, WHAT IS MAN WITHOUT HIS HEROES--HIS FABLES AND LEGENDS?
"OUR HERITAGE IS OUR INSPIRATION, BONES--TO REACH FOR THINGS BEYOND WHAT WE CAN ALREADY TOUCH--TO DREAM A GREATER DREAM AND MOLD IT INTO A REALITY! WITHOUT THE THINKERS, THE PLANNERS, THE LEADERS, THE DOERS--WITHOUT OUR HISTORY TO CATCH US WHEN WE FALL AND SET US ON OUR FEET. AGAIN... WHAT HAS MAN GOT LEFT?"

GOLD KEY
STAR TREK
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STAR TREK
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MAY
SCIENCE VS. SORCERY
THE ENTERPRISE AND HER CREW ARE SNARED IN A WIZARD'S MAGIC!
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CAPTAIN'S LOG: STAR DATE 12:48.6-- WE ARE PROCEEDING THROUGH SECTOR VEGA 6 TOWARD A RENDEZVOUS WITH SPACE AMBASSADOR MASON AT STAR-BASE 10--NOTHING UNUSUAL TO REPORT...
NCC1701
MR. SPOCK, HOW ARE WE...
CAPTAIN-- THERE'S SOMETHING ON THE VIEWSCREEN!
WHAT IS IT, MR. SULU?
I'M NOT SURE, CAPTAIN-- SOME NEBULOUS MASS, I THINK...AND IT'S HEADING THIS WAY!
WAIT--IT'S TAKING FORM! IT'S...
IT'S NOT POSSIBLE! BRACE YOURSELVES, EVERYONE! WE'RE GOING TO...
THE GREAT SHIP SHUDDERS LIKE A THING POSSESSED AND THEN HANGS SUSPENDED IN SPACE...

...SUSPENDED IN THE GHOSTLY HANDS OF...
A GENIE!! WE'VE BEEN CAUGHT, BY AN HONEST-TO-SPACE GENIE!
IMPOSSIBLE! MY SENSORS INDICATE NOTHING OUT THERE! WHAT YOU SEE IS AN ILLUSION! MERELY...
BUT SPOCK'S SENTENCE GOES UNFINISHED, FOR SUDDENLY...
W-WHAT'S HAPPENING?
THOSE CLOUDS OF SMOKE! THEY'RE...
SECONDS LATER...
THE CAPTAIN--MR. SPOCK--DR. McCOY AND MR. SCOTT... TH-THEY'RE GONE!!

THE WIND WHISTLES ENDLESSLY THROUGH THE MUSTY CORRIDORS OF THE OLD CASTLE AS FOUR FURIOUS FIGURES MATERIALIZE FROM THE CLOUDS OF SMOKE THAT FILL THE CENTER OF THE ORNATE HALL...
WELCOME, CAPTAIN KIRK--GENTLEMEN! I TRUST YOU HAVEN'T FOUND THE TRIP TOO UNPLEASANT!
WHO ARE YOU? HOW HAVE YOU BROUGHT US HERE?
THROUGH SORCERY, NATURALLY! A SOMEWHAT MORE SUBTLE ART THAN YOUR SCIENCE, YOU'LL FIND!
AND AS FOR MY NAME-- CHANG WILL DO!

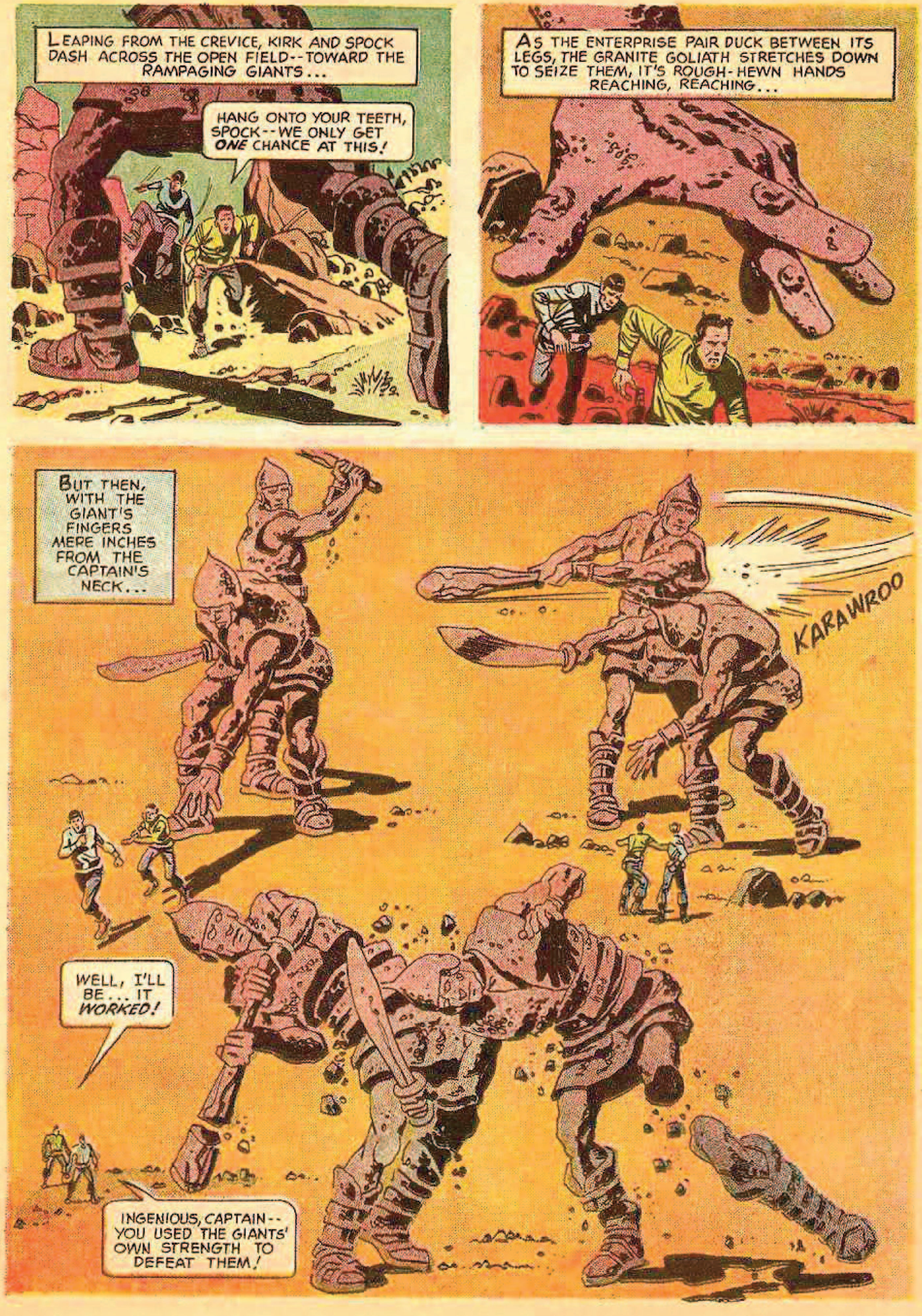
I DON'A CARE IF YE R NAME'S CHANG OR ME GREAT AUNT TILLIE, I'M GONNA...
...DO NOTHING, MR. SCOTT! FREEZE!
WHA...? I-I CANNA MOVE!
THAT'S ENOUGH, CHANG! WE'RE SUFFICIENTLY IMPRESSED! NOW I DEMAND YOU RELEASE MR. SCOTT AND THE REST OF US --IMMEDIATELY!
I'M AFRAID, CAPTAIN, THAT YOU ARE IN NO POSITION TO DEMAND ANYTHING!
BUT I, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAVE MUCH TO DEMAND OF YOU!

AT THE FOOT OF A MOUNTAIN MANY MILES FROM HERE, THERE LIES THE FABLED SCEPTRE OF THE SUN, A MYSTIC DEVICE POSSESSING POWERS UNMATCHED ANYWHERE IN THE UNIVERSE!
MANY OF MY MOST CAPABLE WARRIORS HAVE GONE IN SEARCH OF THE SCEPTRE--NONE EVER HAVE RETURNED! THE MANY PERILS THAT LINE THAT DARK PATH HAVE SEEN TO THAT!
BUT WHY IS THE SCEPTRE SO IMPORTANT TO YOU?
WHY, DOCTOR?--WAR, THAT'S WHY!.. A WAR THAT HAS RAVAGED MY LAND FOR MANY YEARS...
...A WAR I AM LOSING DUE TO THE MACHINATIONS OF A SORCERER NAMED XANDU!...AND THAT IS WHY I SUMMONED YOU HERE!
MY PEOPLE AND I HAVE BECOME VIRTUAL PRISONERS--LIVING UNDER THE THREAT--THE SHADOW OF IMPENDING DOOM! COME, GENTLEMEN--OBSERVE THE RESULT OF XANDU'S SPELL...

BEHOLD THE SWORD IN THE SKY!
SUFFERING STARS-- A GREAT FLAMING SWORD HANGING SUSPENDED OVER THE CITY!
YES, A MYSTIC WEAPON THAT RENDERS ME HELPLESS! FOR IF I MAKE THE SLIGHTEST AGGRESSIVE MOVE, XANDU WILL DROP THE SWORD-- AND TOTALLY DESTROY MY CITY!
ONLY THE SCEPTRE HAS POWER ENOUGH TO RID ME OF THE SWORD WITHOUT SACRIFICING MY CITY-- AND YOU, CAPTAIN KIRK, ARE GOING TO FETCH IT FOR ME!
BUT THIS IS TOTALLY ILLOGICAL! WHY WOULD YOU REQUIRE OUR SERVICES WHEN YOUR POWER SO DWARFS OUR OWN?
LET US JUST SAY I HAVE MY REASONS, MR. SPOCK, AND LET IT GO AT THAT!

I WON'T LEAVE IT AT THAT, CHANG! JUST WHAT MAKES YOU THINK YOU CAN MANIPULATE HUMAN BEINGS AS IF THEY WERE PUPPETS -- AND GET AWAY WITH IT?
BUT, CAPTAIN, YOU MISUNDERSTAND ME! YOU DON'T HAVE TO COMPLY WITH MY WISHES!...OF COURSE, IF YOU REFUSE, MY GENIE WILL REDUCE THE ENTERPRISE TO SO MUCH SPACE RUBBISH!
YOU REALLY MEAN IT, DON'T YOU? YOU'D DESTROY 400 PEOPLE JUST TO PROVE YOUR POINT! I OUGHT TO...
EASY, BONES -- I'M AFRAID WE HAVE NO CHOICE!... ALL RIGHT, CHANG, WE'LL GO FOR YOUR "MAGIC WAND"!
I ONLY HOPE WE DON'A LIVE TA REGRET IT!
SPLENDID, I KNEW YOU'D SEE THINGS MY WAY!... MEET MARLA -- SHE SHALL SERVE AS GUIDE ON YOUR JOURNEY TO THE MOUNTAINS! GOOD LUCK!
"LUCK" DOES NOT ENTER INTO THIS! WE SHALL RETURN WITH YOUR SCEPTRE...
...AND IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO THE ENTERPRISE IN THE INTERIM, THE WHOLE UNIVERSE WILL BE TOO SMALL TO HIDE YOU!

IT CAN'T BE! IT'S NOT POSSIBLE!
DR. McCOY, ON THIS WORLD, ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE! THOSE ARE INDEED ROCK GIANTS!
LESS TALK AND MORE ACTION, MR. SPOCK! LET'S MOVE IT!
THE BOLD ADVENTURERS RACE ACROSS THE ROCKY TERRAIN AS A GREAT, GRANITE BATTLE MACE FALLS FROM A SHADOWED SKY, SHATTERING THE EARTH WITH ITS IMPACT...
QUICK--HEAD FOR THE CLIFF WALL! WE MIGHT FIND SHELTER THERE!
JUST MISSED US!
THE QUINTET QUICKLY SCALES THE GRANITE FACADE--CLAMBERING INTO A SMALL CREVICE JUST BEYOND THE GIANTS' REACH...
IT'S NO GOOD, JIM--OUR PHASERS DON'T HAVE ANY EFFECT ON THE THINGS!
WE CANNA JUST SIT HERE AND WAIT FOR THEM TO SMASH DOWN THE WALL!
AND WE WON'T... SPOCK, FOLLOW ME--I'VE GOT AN IDEA--ONE THAT COULD COST US OUR LIVES!


LEAPING FROM THE CREVICE, KIRK AND SPOCK DASH ACROSS THE OPEN FIELD--TOWARD THE RAMPAGING GIANTS...
HANG ONTO YOUR TEETH, SPOCK--WE ONLY GET ONE CHANCE AT THIS!
AS THE ENTERPRISE PAIR DUCK BETWEEN ITS LEGS, THE GRANITE GOLIATH STRETCHES DOWN TO SEIZE THEM, IT'S ROUGH-HEWN HANDS REACHING, REACHING...
BUT THEN, WITH THE GIANT'S FINGERS MERE INCHES FROM THE CAPTAIN'S NECK...
KARAWROO
WELL, I'LL BE... IT WORKED!
INGENIOUS, CAPTAIN--YOU USED THE GIANTS' OWN STRENGTH TO DEFEAT THEM!

MOMENTS LATER...
I CANNA BELIEVE IT, CAP'N! YE DESTROYED THEM BOTH WI'OUT EVER LAYING A FINGER ON THEM!
GENTLEMEN, I SUGGEST WE DISCUSS THIS AT A LATER DATE --LET'S MOVE!
THE FIVE WEARY WAYFARERS TREK ONWARD THROUGH THE DANGEROUS, FORBODING CANYON UNTIL...
IT IS GETTING DARK, JAMES KIRK--I SUGGEST WE STOP AND MAKE CAMP! 'TWOULD BE SUICIDE TO TRAVEL THIS TRAIL AT NIGHT!
AND A SHORT WHILE LATER, NEAR THE WARMTH OF A ROARING FIRE...
TELL ME, MARLA--HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW OF CHANG? WHERE DOES HE COME FROM? HOW DOES HE GET HIS POWERS?
PLEASE, JAMES KIRK--THE AIR HAS EARS! THERE IS MUCH ABOUT CHANG WE HAVE NOT LEARNED!
HE CAME AMONGST US UNAWARES--DOWN FROM THE DARK MOUNTAINS TO THE NORTH! WE HAD BEEN A QUIET, PEACEFUL PEOPLE --BUT CHANG CHANGED ALL THAT!
HIS VAST MYSTIC POWERS TWISTED US--BENT US TO HIS WILL! IN A SHORT WHILE, HE HAD MADE HIMSELF OUR KING--AND THERE WAS NOBODY STRONG ENOUGH TO STOP HIM!

THAT'S NOT PROMISING! BUT CHANG MUST HAVE SOME WEAK POINT -- SOME CRACK IN HIS...WHAT??
DEFEND YOURSELVES! WE ARE UNDER ATTACK!
SNAPPING TO THEIR FEET, THE ENTERPRISE BAND LEAPS INTO THE FRAY...
JIM, WATCH YOUR BACK!
THANKS, BONES-- THAT'S ONE I OWE YOU!
FOR SEVERAL MINUTES, THE UNEVEN STRUGGLE RAGES BACK AND FORTH UNTIL...
I CANNA HOLD ME GROUND!
WE'RE GREATLY OUTNUMBERED!
CAPTAIN, WE...
ALL RIGHT--ALL OF YOU...STOP WHERE YOU ARE...
OR YOUR CAPTAIN DIES!!!
END PART I

STAR TREK
PART II
SCEPTRE OF THE SUN
CAPTAIN'S LOG: STAR DATE 12:48.9-- OFFICERS SPOCK, SCOTT, McCOY AND I HAVE BEEN MYSTERIOUSLY TRANSPORTED TO A PLANET STILL IN ITS DARK AGES TO DO THE BIDDING OF THE BLACK WIZARD CALLED CHANG! WHILE SEEKING THE SECRET SANCTUARY OF THE MYSTICAL SCEPTRE OF THE SUN, WE HAVE BEEN ATTACKED AND OVERPOWERED BY A BAND OF BARBARIANS WHO HAVE THREATENED US WITH SURRENDER OR DEATH...
ALL RIGHT, WHO-EVER YOU ARE, YOU WIN--- WE GIVE UP!
MY APOLOGIES FOR THE VIOLENCE, CAPTAIN, BUT WE HAD NO TIME FOR FORMALITIES!
I AM CALLED BRANO! MY PEOPLE AND I HAVE NEED OF YOUR HELP!
WELL, YOU SURE HAVE A STRANGE WAY OF SHOWING IT!
NO, I SWEAR-- IT'S TRUE! WE...
OR PERHAPS I SHOULD START AT THE BEGINNING!

YOU SEE--MY FOLLOWERS, MYSELF, AND HE WHO IS CALLED *CHANG*--- ARE FROM THE PLANET *EARTH!*... BUT NOT *YOUR* EARTH!
WE COME FROM THE YEAR *1997!*
"THE GREAT EUGENICS WAR WAS RAGING ACROSS THE FACE OF THE WORLD AT THAT TIME AND WE WERE PART OF A SMALL *PEACE* MOVEMENT THAT TRIED TO STEM THE DESTRUCTIVE TIDE..."
PEACE
"FINALLY, RESIGNED TO DEFEAT, WE CONSTRUCTED A GREAT SPACESHIP AND FLED EARTH IN SEARCH OF A *PEACEFUL* WORLD! FOR MANY YEARS, WE DRIFTED THROUGH SPACE IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION..."
"UNTIL OUR ROBOT SENSORS DISCOVERED *THIS* PLANET, A QUIET, PEACEFUL WORLD STILL IN ITS INDUSTRIAL INFANCY..."
"UPON REVIVING, WE LANDED IN A SECLUDED SPOT AND BEGAN DISMANTLING OUR ROCKET--- FOR THIS WORLD WAS TO BE OUR *HOME* FROM NOW ON..."
077

"IT WAS EASY FOR US TO MINGLE WITH THE SIMPLE PEOPLE WE DISCOVERED HERE-- LIFE WAS PERFECT-- ALL ANYONE COULD HOPE FOR... ANYONE, THAT IS SAVE CHANG..."
I AM BORED! SOMEWHERE ON THIS WORLD, THERE MUST BE ADVENTURE TO BE FOUND! ...AND PERHAPS THERE, BEYOND THE MOUNTAINS, I SHALL FIND IT!
"AND SO, CHANG PASSED FROM OUR MIDST AND WE THOUGHT HIM GONE, UNTIL ONE DAY, SEVERAL MONTHS LATER..."
LOOK! THERE-- IN THE CENTER OF TOWN... CHANG HAS RETURNED!
"AND CHANG HAD RETURNED IN STYLE..."
FASTER, YOU WITLESS FOOLS, FASTER--OR YOUR LIVES ARE FORFEIT!
"BUT THIS WAS NOT THE SAME CHANG--FOR SOMETHING HAD HAPPENED TO HIM ON HIS TRIP THROUGH THE MOUNTAINS-- SOMETHING STRANGE... SINISTER..."
THAT'S RIGHT, YOU SPINELESS LACKIES--BOW AND SCRAPE BEFORE ME AS BEFITS YOUR STATION!
W-WE CAN'T RESIST! SOME OCCULT POWER IS FORCING US TO OBEY!
...AND THAT'S THE WAY ITS BEEN! NONE OF US HAS HAD STRENGTH ENOUGH TO DEFY CHANG --UNTIL NOW!
YOU SEE--ONE OF CHANG'S GUARDS SPIES FOR US! HE TOLD OF YOUR QUEST FOR THE SCEPTRE!

SO WE'RE COMING WITH YOU! WITH THE POWER OF THAT SCEPTRE IN OUR HANDS, WE'LL BE ABLE TO OVERTHROW CHANG AND RESTORE PEACE TO OUR WORLD!
AND WHAT IF WE SAY NO?
I DON'T THINK WE CAN SAY NO, BONES--BRAND HAS US OUT-NUMBERED! HE'LL COME WHETHER WE AGREE OR NOT, SO WE MAY AS WELL MAKE THEM WELCOME!
AND MERE MOMENTS LATER, AS KIRK AND THE OTHERS ROUND A BEND...
CAP'N, LOOK--STRAIGHT AHEAD--IN THE SHADOWS...
I SEE IT, SCOTTY!
...WELL, BRAND, THERE IT IS--THE ANSWER TO YOUR PROBLEMS...
MILE AFTER EMPTY MILE PASSES BENEATH THE BAND'S FEET UNTIL FINALLY...
HAVE WE MUCH FARTHER TO GO, MARLA?
NO, JAMES KIRK--ACCORDING TO CHANG'S INSTRUCTIONS, WE ARE ALMOST THERE!
WE'VE FOUND THE SCEPTRE OF THE SUN!

A HUGE ROBOT GUARDIAN! NO WONDER NOBODY EVER RETURNED FROM HERE!
CAPTAIN, YOU HAVE THE SCEPTRE! I SUGGEST YOU UTILIZE IT!
JIM, WATCH OUT! WE MAY HAVE FOUND THE SCEPTRE--BUT SOMETHING ELSE HAS FOUND US!
THE CAPTAIN QUICKLY AIMS THE MYSTIC ROD AT THE LUMBERING ROBOT BUT...
SPOCK, THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG--THE SCEPTRE DOESN'T WORK!
I HAD FEARED THAT! QUICKLY, CAPTAIN--YOU AND THE OTHERS DISTRACT THAT MECHANOID'S ATTENTION MOMENTARILY! I'VE DEVISED A PLAN THAT REQUIRES MY COMPLETE FREEDOM!
AND MOMENTS LATER...
NYAHH! NYAHH! YOUR MOTHER WORE AN ASTEROID WIG!
AN' YE'RE FATHER FLEW A SPACE SCOW!
KEEP IT UP! IT'S WORKING! THE ROBOT IS FOLLOWING US! SPOCK'S GOT HIS CHANCE!
UNOBSERVED, SPOCK SCRAMBLES UP THE HILLSIDE AND WAITS, POISED, UNTIL...
MY TIMING MUST BE PERFECT! THE ROBOT IS RIGHT UNDER ...NOW!

THE VULCAN SCIENCE OFFICER HURLS THE SHORT SPAN AND...
PHASE ONE COMPLETED! NOW I MUST RIP OUT THE CORRECT WIRES BEFORE THE ROBOT SWATS ME OFF ITS BACK...
VULCAN SINEWS STRETCH AND STRAIN--- THERE IS THE SOUND OF TORTURED METAL AND...
SPLANG!
DONE!! NOW-- TO GET OUT BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE...
BOLTS OF ELECTRICITY CRACKLE ABOUT THE ROBOT'S HUGE FORM AS IT CRASHES TO THE GROUND...
IT APPEARS I MADE THE PROPER CHOICE...
YE DID IT, MR. SPOCK!
YOUR ENTHUSIASM IS UNWARRANTED, MR. SCOTT! UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT WAS THE ONLY LOGICAL CHANCE TO SAVE OUR LIVES!
WELL, THAT WAS A COMPLIMENT, SPOCK... BUT WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS WHY THE SCEPTRE WOULDN'T WORK WHEN I TRIED IT! IS THERE A SECRET WAY TO OPERATE IT OR...
I'M AFRAID, CAPTAIN-- THAT THERE IS FAR MORE TO ALL THIS THAN THAT!

NONE OF WHAT WE'VE EXPERIENCED IS THE LEAST BIT LOGICAL! WHY, FOR EXAMPLE, DID A ROBOT--A PRODUCT OF SCIENCE--GUARD A MAGICAL SCEPTRE?
THE ANSWERS HAVE TO BE SOMEWHERE BACK AT CHANG'S CASTLE--SO THAT'S WHERE WE'RE GOING!
BOLTS OF LIGHTNING STREAK ACROSS THE RAIN-SWEPT EVENING SKY AS THE RETURNING MEN APPROACH THE ERODED EDIFACE THAT IS CHANG'S CASTLE...
STRANGE, CAP'N--THAT BEAM OF LIGHT RISIN' FROM CHANG'S PALACE--WHAT PURPOSE CANNA SERVE?
I'M NOT SURE, SCOTTY--BUT IF IT DOES WHAT I THINK IT DOES... WE'RE IN TERRIBLE TROUBLE!
OVERPOWERING THE GUARDS, THE BAND QUICKLY SCALES THE RAMPARTS AND...
AHH, CAPTAIN KIRK--I'VE BEEN EXPECTING... WHY, BRAND--IS IT YOU? IT'S BEEN SUCH A LONG TIME. HOW'S THE REVOLUTION BUSINESS?
CHANG--WE'RE BACK FOR SOME ANSWERS!
HOLD YOUR TONGUE, CHANG! I'LL...
BUT AS THE WARRIOR CHARGES FORWARD...
GALLOPING GALAXIES... HE'S BEEN TURNED INTO A TOAD!
REALLY--HAVEN'T YOU LEARNED BETTER BY NOW?

AND THE SAME FATE AWAITS ANYONE ELSE WHO RAISES A HAND AGAINST ME!
BUT WHY? WHAT'S THE PURPOSE OF THIS MACHINE? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS, CAPTAIN? MY TRACTOR BEAMS ARE PULLING DOWN YOUR ENTERPRISE--DRAWING IT TO EARTH! ONCE THE VAST RESOURCES OF THAT GALAXY-SPANNING CRAFT ARE UNDER MY CONTROL, NOTHING IN THE UNIVERSE WILL BE ABLE TO STAND AGAINST ME!
MY EMPIRE WILL COVER THE STARS! ALL WILL...
CHANG! YOU'VE GOT TO STOP! THE ENTERPRISE WASN'T DESIGNED TO LAND ON A PLANET! IF YOU PULL IT DOWN INTO THE ATMOSPHERE, IT WILL BURN UP-- DISINTEGRATE!
COME NOW, CAPTAIN--YOU DON'T REALLY EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE...
WE'VE LEARNED TO EXPECT NOTHING FROM YOUR KIND, CHANG --ONLY TREACHERY AND DECEIT! YOU MUST BE STOPPED!
I GAVE YOU CREDIT FOR MORE INTELLI-GENCE, SPOCK! BUT ORDER MUST BE MAINTAINED... SO IT'S YOUR TURN TO DIE!

WHA...? SPOCK'S W-WALKING RIGHT THROUGH THE THING!
BUT HOW? I DON'T UNDERSTAND!
IT'S QUITE SIMPLE, CAPTAIN--CHANG IS A FRAUD--A FAKE! EVERYTHING WE'VE SEEN AND EXPERIENCED ON OUR QUEST--THE GIANTS--THE SWORD--THE ROBOTS--THE WAR WITH XANDU--WERE ONLY ILLUSIONS! CHANG MADE US BELIEVE IT ALL EXISTED WHEN, IN TRUTH, IT WAS ALL IN OUR MINDS!
SO THAT'S IT! BUT WHAT WAS THE REASON?
IT WAS ALL A RUSE--A SCHEME TO GET RID OF US--THE COMMAND OFFICERS OF THE ENTERPRISE--LONG ENOUGH FOR CHANG TO TAKE OVER THE SHIP...AND WITH HIS ILLUSIONARY POWERS, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SIMPLE, INDEED!
100% ACCURATE, SPOCK--BUT NONE OF YOU WILL LIVE LONG ENOUGH TO TELL THE TALE!
ATTACK, MEN--DESTROY THEM!!
AND PANDEMONIUM BREAKS LOOSE IN THE GREAT CHAMBER--BUT IN THE MIDST OF THE FIGHTING...
IT'S CHANG--HE'S TRYING TO ESCAPE!

THE SORCERER RACES UP THE STONE STAIRS WITH CAPTAIN KIRK IN PURSUIT...
GIVE IT UP, CHANG--THERE'S NOWHERE FOR YOU TO GO!
BUT THROUGH A STONE ARCH TO THE RAMPARTS RUNS CHANG--AND MOMENTS LATER, AS KIRK ROUNDS A CORNER...
CHANG, WHY DON'T YOU...UGGGHH!
NO CAPTAIN... YOU MAY HAVE ME, BUT I STILL HAVE THE ENTERPRISE IN MY TRACTOR BEAM!
AND BEFORE I'M FINISHED, I'LL HAVE THE SATISFACTION OF WATCHING EVERY MAN AND WOMAN ABOARD IT BURN UP IN THE ATMOSPHERE!
IT SHOULD BE QUITE A SIGHT...TOO BAD YOU WON'T BE HERE TO SEE IT!
AS CHANG'S GREAT SILVER SWORD FALLS IN A DEADLY ARC TOWARDS CAPTAIN KIRK, A JAGGED BOLT OF LIGHTNING, ATTRACTED BY THE METAL STREAKS FROM THE HEAVENS AND...

HE'S DEAD...ELECTROCUTED! IF ONLY I STILL HAVE TIME TO SAVE THE ENTERPRISE!
AND MOMENTS LATER...
IT'S NO USE, CAPTAIN--WE CANNOT DESTROY CHANG'S TRACTOR DEVICE!
I WAS AFRAID OF THAT! IT SEEMS WE HAVE NO ALTERNATIVE --CLEAR THE CASTLE IMMEDIATELY... AND PRAY WE CAN CONTACT THE SHIP!
FOR SEVERAL DESPERATE MINUTES, KIRK SHOUTS INTO HIS COMMUNICATOR, GETTING ONLY STATIC IN REPLY, UNTIL...
KKZZZTT... CAPTAIN? CAPTAIN, IS THAT YOU? WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO REACH YOU FOR HOURS! SOME TERRIBLE FORCE HAS HOLD OF THE SHIP!
I KNOW, MR. SULU--NOW LISTEN CLOSELY! WE HAVE ONLY ONE CHANCE TO SAVE YOU!
IN EXACTLY 90 SECONDS, I WANT YOU TO DIRECT FULL PHASER POWER ON THESE CO-ORDINATES --AND KEEP IT THERE!
AFFIRMATIVE, CAPTAIN-HERE GOES NOTHING!
TWIN GOLDEN BEAMS FALL FROM THE SKY, BATHING THE GROTESQUE GARRISON IN AN EERIE GLOW...
IF THIS DOES NOT WORK, CAPTAIN--THERE IS NO HOPE FOR THE ENTERPRISE!
WHY DON'T YOU SAVE YOUR BREATH FOR PRAYING, SPOCK?

UNTIL FINALLY...
IT WORKED, JIM! THE CASTLE IS FINISHED!
BUT WHAT ABOUT THE SHIP?
SULU? MR. SULU, CAN YOU HEAR ME? WHAT'S HAPPENED UP THERE?
THE PRESSURE IS GONE, CAPTAIN-- EVERYTHING IS JUST FINE!
THANK THE STARS!
NO, MR. SCOTT-- THANK THE PHASER BANKS!
AND LATER, AS THE ENTERPRISE ARCS OFF TOWARDS THE VELVET VOID OF SPACE...
WELL, JIM--BRAND HAS HIS PEACEFUL PLANET AGAIN! I ONLY HOPE THERE ARE NO OTHER CHANGS WAITING TO STRIKE!
SO DO I, BONES!
OF COURSE, CAPTAIN, THE IRONY IS THAT CHANG WITH ALL HIS GENIUS HAD THE POTENTIAL TO CONSTRUCT A SPACE SHIP ON HIS OWN! IF ONLY HE HAD THE PATIENCE TO WAIT UNTIL HE COULD DO SO, HE MIGHT WELL HAVE CONQUERED THE GALAXIES!
I KNOW, SPOCK, BUT CHANG'S SECRETS DIED WITH HIM... AND FOR ALL OUR SAKES, LET'S HOPE THEY STAY THAT WAY!